

2003-2006 Quadrennial Report of International Federation of Business and Professional Women, an NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC since 1947

International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) was founded in 1930 to bring together women in the paid workforce in business and the professions world-wide to work for equal opportunity in economic, civil and political life. It aims to develop professional and leadership potential for women at all levels. BPW International has over 100 affiliates in 80 countries on all five continents.

I. Participation in the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its subsidiary bodies and major United Nations conferences

I.1 UN ECOSOC: BPW International attended substantive Sessions of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva on 28 July – 15 August 2003 and 7-25 August 2006.

I.2 United Nations Office – New York: BPW International has attended the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York annually. BPW International, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International (Project 5-O) typically work together. For CSW 47th Session, 3-14 March 2003, Project 5-O submitted a statement on Violence Against Women and oral statement on Women and Media / Information and Communication Technology (ICT); co-organized workshops: *Good Practices to Handle High Priority in Violence against Women*, 4 March 2003; and *Equal Access to Knowledge for Women through Information and Communication Technologies and Media*, 6 March 2003. BPW International Vice President was a keynote speaker at NGO Consultation on 1 March 2003 on *Women and ICT*. For CSW 48th Session, 1-12 March 2004, Project 5-O submitted statement on Women and Armed Conflicts and oral statement on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality and co-organized *Women Enabling Peace Process: Opportunities and Partnerships to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325* workshop, 1 March 2004. BPW International organized *Women for Peace* workshop, 2 March 2004. For CSW 49th Session, 28 February-11

March 2005, Project 5-O submitted statement on Implementation Review of Beijing Platform for Action and presented oral statement on Strategies for the advancement of women and girls. BPW International organized *Beijing+10 Review: Two Steps Forward and One Step Back* workshop, 1 March 2005. For CSW 50th Session on 27 February-10 March 2006, BPW International organized *Return on Investment When More Women Become Executives* workshop, 28 February 2006. During 2003-2006, BPW representatives both co-chaired and participated in NGO Planning Committee for NGO/CSW Consultation Day and other CSW events; served on executive committee of NGO Committee on Status of Women and NGO Committee on UNIFEM, and were involved in consultation activities during 2 weeks review of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

I.3 United Nations Office - Vienna: BPW Representatives were members of NGO Committees on Peace, on Narcotic Drugs, on Development, on UNIFEM, on Human Rights, on Family and on Status of Women; attended meetings monthly; and helped develop Joint Statements to United Nations meetings. BPW International co-signed joint statements on Women Trafficking and Women and Poverty for CSW 49th Session, March 2005; Joint Statement for the 11th ministerial meeting of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Sao Paolo, 13-18 June 2004, and many more.

I.4 UN Office on Drugs and Crime: BPW International attended in Vienna: (a) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 12th session, 13-22 May 2003, 13th Session, 11-20 May 2004; (b) Commission on Narcotic Drugs 46th session, 16-17 April 2003, 47th Session, 16-25 March 2004; (c) Conference of Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 1st session, 28 June-July 2004 and 2nd Session, 10-21 October 2005.

I.5 International Labour Organization (ILO): BPW International attended in Geneva (a) ILO Conferences 91st Session, 3-19 June 2003; 92nd Session, 1-17 June 2004; 93rd Session, 31 May-16 June 2005; and 94th Session, 7-23 February 2006; (b) *Meeting of*

Experts on Violence and Stress at Work, 8-15 October 2003; (c) *Tripartite Meeting on Future of Work and Quality in the Information Society*, 18-22 October 2004.

I.6 United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS): BPW members attended WSIS Phase I in Geneva, 9-12 December 2003, and Phase II in Tunis, 16-18 November 2005, and lobbied for gender-sensitive ICT indicators.

I.7 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): BPW International attended in Geneva: *Preparatory committee for UNCTAD IX. Hearing with Civil Society and Private Sector*, 22 April 2004; *Trade and Development Board 35th Executive Session*, 21 September 2004 and *53rd session*, 27 September–10 October 2006; *Expert Meeting on Promoting Export Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises*, 9-10 December 2004; *9th Session of Commission on Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities*, 15 March 2005; *Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues 10th Session*, 6-10 March 2006.

I.8 World Health Organization (WHO): BPW International submitted 2002-2004 report for WHO in 2004. During 2003-2006, BPW International attended WHO Executive Board meetings in Geneva each January (co-signed statements on Reproductive health and on Health Systems for the 113th session, 19-23 January 2004); *56th-59th World Health General Assembly* each May; *57th Regional WHO meeting in Western Pacific* in Auckland, New Zealand, 18-22 September 2006 (submitted statement on gender discrimination and disadvantages relating to HIV/AIDS).

I.9 United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP): BPW International attended in Bangkok *59th Commission Session of the UNESCAP Meetings in Bangkok*, 21-24 April 2003; *UNESCAP Beijing+10 Review*, 7-10 September 2004. BPW International, UNESCAP and Asia-Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC) co-organized in Bangkok: *e-Business and Opportunities for Women in Asia-Pacific*, seminar, 28-30 March 2005, and *APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women 2006: Innovation and Leadership in Asia-Pacific*, 15 December 2006.

I.10 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): BPW International attended in Geneva: UNECE 59th Annual session, 24-26 February 2004; 60th Session, 22-25 February 2005; 61st Session, 21-23 February 2006; *Good Governance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*, 1-2 April 2004; *Regional Preparatory Meeting for 10 year Review and Appraisal of Beijing Platform for Action*, 14-15 December 2004.

I.11 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: BPW International attended in Santiago, Chile: *Commerce, Development and Poverty Conference*, 4 May 2004; *The High-level Panel about Global and Regional Development*, 17 June 2004; *Economic Integration and Social Cohesion lessons learned and perspectives*, 11 November 2004; and 9th *Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* in Mexico City, 10-12 June 2004.

II. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

II.1 Ten Year Review Beijing Platform for Actions: (Beijing+10) Preparation: A BPW Representative co-authored NGO/CSW Committee in New York's *Ten Years After Beijing: Still More Promises than Progress: 1999-2005 Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action* as input for NGO Consultation on 27 February 2005 and CSW 49th Session in March 2005. BPW International's own review "*Beijing+10 Review: Two Steps Forward and One Step Back*," was archived at www.bpw-international.org. BPW members attended NGO Beijing+10 Review for Latin America and the Caribbean Forum in Mexico City, 7-8 June 2004, and Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing+10 Review in Bangkok, 30 June–3 July 2004, and published *Financial Crisis that Breaks the Glass Ceiling: Advancement of Thai Women Executives in the Private Sector* in the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum Beijing+10 Review booklet.

II.2 NGO/Department of Public Information (NGO/DPI): A BPW Representative was a member of Planning Committee for NGO/DPI Annual Conferences in New York, 2003-2006. BPW International co-organized workshops/panels: *Acting on Human Dignity and Security: From Participatory Theatre to Reality on the World Stage*, 56th

NGO/DPI conference, 8 September 2003; *MDG 1: Poverty, International Migration and Development*, 57th NGO/DPI Conference, 8 September 2004; *Reducing Fear of Strangers/Reducing Strangers' Fears: The Challenges of Providing Services to Migrants and Refugees in a Hostile Environment*, 58th NGO/DPI conference, 9 September 2005.

II.3 Migration: A BPW representative was a member of Migration taskforce which helped prepare High-Level Discussion on Migration in New York, 14-15 September 2006. As a member of Subcommittee on Immigrants and Refugees in 2004-2006, she organized *International Migration and Migrants: Critical Issues in Social Development and Human Well-Being*, workshop in parallel to Commission for Social Development 42nd Session, 13 February 2004; co-convened Migration Caucus at CSW 50th session, 27 February-10 March 2006; and co-founded NGO Committee on Migration, October 2006.

II.4 UNESCO: In 2004, BPW International nominated members for UNESCO's Talent Bank of Women with International Societal Expertise and wrote a report *Monuments on Messengers of Culture of Peace for UNESCO*. UNESCO published BPW activities in its Culture of Peace Newsletter, issue 2, on "Gender and Culture of Peace", December 2004.

II.5 Human Rights: BPW International attended in Geneva: 59th-62nd sessions of Commission for Human Rights; 55th-58th sessions of Sub-Commission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; and 1st-3rd sessions of Human Rights Council in 2006.

III. Actions to support Millennium Development Goals

Supports for **Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger** include literacy training for over 3,000 women; skills training for over 4,000 people; and building 30 houses for displaced people. Supports for **Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women** include micro-credit for over 6,500 women to start up businesses; career guidance for over 6,000 students; 360 scholarships for nursing students; and helping 540 refugee women to integrate into society. Support for **Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development** includes educating 299 people on e-Business in partnership with UNESCAP and/or APWINC.