

2010 UN Commission on the Status of Women

Press Release

Contact: Louise Davidson (l.davidson@sbcglobal.net)

The 22 members of the Presbyterian Women's (PW) delegation to the 54th meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) witnessed the adoption of a new UN entity for women. The recommendations of the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) were adopted early in the event, as thousands came from around the world on the 15th anniversary of the Fourth World Women's Conference held in Beijing, China. Both the anniversary and the new structure were celebrated by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon during the UN's Women's Day event during the meeting.

The members of the UNCSW and the nearly 8,000 registered representatives from nongovernmental organizations reviewed the progress of the 12 planks of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995. The Beijing document addresses solutions believed necessary for women's advancement including women and poverty, education, health, economy, human rights and the environment. The rights of the girl child and violence against women, particularly trafficking in women and girls, have been in the spotlight in high-level panel discussions and hundreds of CSW parallel events. The Millennium Development Goals that challenge the world to solve problems of poverty and health around the world by the year 2015, are bound closely with progress on the challenges of the Beijing Platform.

PW's delegation included women from across the United States. Iliia Snowball, member of Racial Ethnic Young Women Together, and Philomene Mwauke, affiliated with Presbyterian Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, joined the PW delegation. The Rev. Nicolas Muteba of Boston accompanied Ms. Mwauke as translator.

For information about the UNCSW, visit

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>

For the Millennium Development Goals, see

<http://www.undp.org/mdg/>