



## SHORT NARRATIVE HISTORY OF SAWID'S ORIGIN AND NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

**MARCH 2003 - MARCH 2010**

On behalf of the Isigodlo Trustees, SAWID thanks its partners and sponsors who have donated generously to enable the achievement of SAWID's goals. We also acknowledge the contributions of the hundreds of volunteers and resource people who have contributed their time and efforts towards the success of the organisation's initiatives.

The **SAWID Development Caravan (DC) Poverty Eradication Approach** grew out of the first SAWID National Dialogue in July 2003, when the women who gathered at the University of Pretoria noted that they were still too poor to participate in the democratic spaces that had been created since 1994. The activities of the DC are dealt with in a separate document.

### **Major Donors and Sponsors:**

Independent Development Trust (IDT), De Beers Ponahalo Fund for Disadvantaged Women, the Health and Welfare SETA, the NEPAD Spanish Fund, Macsteel, Deloitte & Touche, FNB, ABSA, Standard Bank, various South African government departments, including the Office of the Presidency, the National Lottery Board, Telkom, Eskom, and Transnet (A complete list of all donors appears in our Composite Annual Reports)

### **How did SAWID start?**

The SAWID 2003 Forum was inspired by the experiences of around 60 South African women, drawn from business, government and various political parties, who had convened in spontaneous support of the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) when they were attending the broader Inter-Congolese Peace Dialogue at Sun City and Pretoria in March and December 2002.

## **SAWID MARCH 2003 DRC PEACE DIALOGUE**

This meeting resulted in a 5-day in-depth interaction between 125 women from the DRC and 200 South African women who met at Esselen Park in March 2003. This Forum was preceded by a 2-day facilitated workshop on leadership, intended to remove the communication barriers that had previously frustrated dialogue among the various warring parties in the DRC.

At the end of this challenging but successful interaction, which allowed the DRC women to vision together for a better DRC, the South African women were requested by the DRC women to play a broader peace role among women in the Great Lakes Region. South Africans were called upon to help the DRC women mainstream gender issues in the DRC Constitution-making process by sharing the South African experience in promoting a pro-women agenda. After the dialogue, women from the DRC felt empowered enough to interrupt the Inter-Congolese Peace Dialogue represented by an all-male delegation and demand that an agreement be signed.

## **SAWID JULY 2003 NATIONAL DIALOGUE**

The first SA Women's Dialogue in 2003 gave women the opportunity as South Africans to meet alone before venturing out into Africa to share their experiences in peacemaking and democracy. The Forum convened to develop and share strategies for mainstreaming women's issues, and to discuss the post-conflict developmental challenges.

The purpose of the first SAWID Forum was to help the women of South Africa to break the communication barriers that impede genuine interaction and specifically to reflect on the experiences and roles of South African women before 1994, to celebrate the achievements of women and the nation since 1994, to identify and address ongoing challenges for women and the nation, and to envision a plan towards a post-2004 future.

In addition to drafting a programme of action towards the realization of that vision, women had a facilitated dialogue on women's leadership and provided support for the AU Principles and developmental goals of the NEPAD Programmes.

## **SAWID JULY 2004 NATIONAL DIALOGUE**

In the SAWID Forum of 2004, women were given the opportunity to divide themselves into their provinces to deliberate the issues that were priorities to them, to break barriers and to start the bonding process, to elect interim officials to represent them and to suggest recommendations for a way forward. The youth were given space to meet on their own to devise their own vision of SAWID. Training workshops were arranged in many of the fields of women's interests to empower them with skills that were useful in their communities and in their provinces.

## **SAWID JULY 2004 BURUNDI PEACE DIALOGUE**

Later in the same month, Sawid invited around 100 women from all the different parties in Burundi and a South African delegation of around 200 women to attend a Peace Dialogue at Esselen Park.

The objectives of the South African women were to exchange strategies regarding women's integration within our own political parties, to share experiences across our political spectrum about how South African women achieved a common women's agenda during the democratisation processes leading to the elections of 1994, through the Women's coalition and the Women's Charter for Effective Equality process, to outline processes that were followed to ensure that South African women were included in key decision-making state institutions, to highlight the dividends of peace for women's development, and to build solidarity among African Women.

Burundian women made it clear that they wanted specific strategies that would allow them to participate meaningfully in the democratic processes taking place in their country. They identified as their priorities the need to increase women's participation in the decision-making processes, to choose an electoral system that favours women, to deal with trauma and healing, and to participate in the formulation of a woman-friendly Defence Protocol.

## **YOUTH SAWID DECEMBER 2004**

During the July 2004 National SAWID dialogue, young women had demanded that they meet on their own to discuss issues of particular relevance to their lives. During the first youth conference in Saldanha in December 2004, more than 1500 young women from all provinces in South Africa gathered in Saldanha under the patronage of Ms. Phumzile Mlambo Ncuka, who would become the first female Deputy President of South Africa. Young SAWIDIANS agreed to steer and drive young women's participation in the New Partnership for Africa's Development by the enhancement of individual and personal development, ensuring the

economic participation and growth among young women, strengthening democratic knowledge and principles among young women, and bridging the gap between races, ethnic groups, religions, cultures and ages.

### **MARCH 2005 UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

At the 2005 UN CSW forum YSAWID Chairperson Ms Hazel Shelton was co-opted into the Global Youth Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Forum and she has now been elected as official South African representative to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee, among four other Africans on this global committee . SAWID has been invited to apply to be a forum with consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). All organisations with consultative status have automatic invitations to attend all UN NGO CSW events.

### **JULY 2005 BURUNDI ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION**

SAWID nominated two members to represent it on the Election Observer Mission to Burundi in July 2005, namely Ms Nonqaba Mosunkuthu and Ms Gertrude Mzizi.

### **SAWID JULY 2005 NATIONAL DIALOGUE BEIJING PLUS 10**

In July 2005 SAWID invited the women of South Africa to participate in a Beijing plus 10 Strategic Planning Meeting, where invited speakers reported back on the Beijing Plus 10 Conference in New York. The 12 Critical areas of concern that were raised during the Beijing Conference in 1995 were discussed and recommendations were made after extensive dialogues.

Provincial Formations were invited to do report-backs of provincial activities, and more than 80 training workshops were held in the fields of women's interests, including the following: Conflict Resolution, Peace and Reconciliation, Psychiatric care, Income generating workshops, Agriculture for the future, Basic IT Training, Financial cooperatives and Parenting.

### **NOVEMBER 2005 FIDA CONFERENCE IN MALAYSIA**

Ms. Nandi Msezana, an NGO activist against trafficking in women, joined Ms. Khanya Jele, Ms. Puli Moloto, Judge Yvonne Mokgoro, Professor Karen Muller, Advocate Lindiwe Vilakazi, Ms. Joyce Maluleka and Ms. Hazel Shelton in representing South Africa and South African women in Dialogue

at the International Federation of Women Lawyers, (FIDA) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in November 2005. The conference aimed at empowering female lawyers to continue playing a meaningful role in addressing the plight of women.

## **OCTOBER AND DECEMBER 2005 TANZANIA ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION**

The SAWID members of this mission consisted of Ms Bathabile Madonsela and Ms Bibi Suraraya Khan.

## **DECEMBER 2005 WTO WORKSHOP**

The Gender and Trade Network in Africa (GENTA) and SAWID co-hosted a workshop at the SABC Offices in Auckland Park on the 5th of December 2005. The objective of the event was to intensify the understanding of women regarding the importance of international trade and the effect of World Trade Organisation (WTO) processes on women's lives. Keynote Speaker, former Minister of Land and Agriculture Thoko Didiza, who had led the South African delegation, provided an illuminating introduction to the WTO negotiation. During the workshop the context of the power dynamics of global economic forces and decisions were explained, and how they relate to and influence retailers, communities, households, and the lived experiences of South African women. Ms. Lebohang Pheko and Mr. Elijah Wachira facilitated the workshop. Amongst the participants, who included key opinion makers, including journalists, captains of industry and academics, were Ms. Futhi Mtoba, Dr. Teboho Maitse, Ms. Lerato Mbele and Ms. Gloria Serobe.

## **SAWID JANUARY 2006 APRM WORKSHOP**

Women of South Africa, representing all nine provinces, gathered to participate as members of civil society in the African Peer Review Mechanism, a system created by the African Union to encourage African countries to improve their governance, and to provide a mechanism for monitoring the political and developmental issues on the African Continent.

Women presented the following recommendations: Women identified an urgent need to build the leadership capacity of women, to harmonise traditional and informal systems of governance, to establish a national coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanism, to strengthen the relationship between government and civil society, and they urged the protection of women's mental, sexual and bodily integrity at home, work and in public places.

## **MARCH 2006 UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) NGO COMMITTEE NEW YORK**

SAWID was represented at this event by four participants who attended workshops on the main themes. Ms. Mandisa Monakali of Ilitha Labantu led on the theme of "Violence Against Women," while Ms. Alidia Seabi and Ms. Zanele Bengo of Youth SAWID scanned all NGO workshops, and especially those dealing with young people. Ms. Bibi Suraya Khan showcased the grassroots SAWID initiatives. Their reports are available on our website. The attendance of the UN NGO-CSW 2006 follows SAWID's attendance of UN NGO-CSW 2005, where the SAWID participation contributed a lot to the official South African delegation inputs, particularly as they were the only South African youth participants. At the 2005 forum Hazel Shelton was co-opted into the Global Youth Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Forum and she has now been elected as official South African representative to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee, among four other Africans on this global committee. SAWID has now been invited to apply to be a forum with consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). All organisations with consultative status have automatic invitations to attend all UN NGO CSW events.

## **SAWID APRIL 2006 UK LAUNCH**

On Saturday, April 8, 2006, around 200 South African women living in the United Kingdom gathered at South Africa House on Trafalgar Square in London to participate

in the Seminar and Launch of the South African Women in Dialogue UK Chapter. Women attended at the invitation of the High Commissioner Her Excellency Dr Lindiwe Mabuza, with the vision of gathering South African women, united in their diversity, to act together for a better future.

The event was facilitated by personal transformation specialist Mr. Mike Boon and presentations were made by High Commissioner Dr. Lindiwe Mabuza, Chairperson of SAWID UK, Ms Lindiwe Miya, and members of the South African delegation, consisting of Dr. Teboho Maitse, Ms. Bibi Suraya Khan, Ms. Marthe Muller and Youth SAWID representative Ms. Sindiswa Mzamo.

The main objectives of the workshop were for women to be informed of the activities of SAWID South Africa, to experience a barrier-breaking and healing experience, and to dialogue in order to identify the issues and

challenges that most affect South African women living in the United Kingdom.

The participants identified the key challenges that limit South African women from fully benefiting from their social and economic presence in the UK and identified the ways in which SAWID could help them overcome those limitations.

### **SAWID MAY 2006 DEVELOPMENT CARAVAN WORKSHOP**

On May 17, 2006, around 34 people, amongst whom development practitioners, development funding agencies, academics working in the field of development and women working in grassroots development projects convened at the Holiday Inn in Beatrix Road, Hatfield, Pretoria in order to formulate a SAWID Development Programme Strategy and Action Plan with specific focus on the Development Caravan.

The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Japhet Ngubane, an Associate from ResourceAfrica, and the strategic objectives of the meeting were to arrive at a consensus regarding the outline of the Programme to discuss the profile of a Development Caravan Programme Advisory Team, to agree on the initial pilot areas for the establishment of a Local SAWID Development Caravan Hub, and to reach consensus on the structure of the Development Caravan Machinery.

Presentations were made by SAWID patron Ms. Zanele Mbeki, Development Commission Convenor Ms. Vuyo Mahlati, Assistant Director, Health Promotion of the Department of Health, Ms. Maredi Modiba, and the Tunisian ambassador to South Africa, Mr. Ali Goutali.

Tentative plans have been made for visits to Tunisia and Chile to learn from the only two countries in the world that have been able to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals by halving poverty.

### **SAWID JUNE 2006 MEETING WITH THE LIBERIAN TRC**

An interactive information-sharing meeting was held on Thursday, June 8, 2006 at 10:00am at Room 55 of the Union Building between members of the Foundation for Human Rights, members of the Inter-African Peace and Reconciliation Commission of South African Women in Dialogue, and the 9 members of the recently appointed Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Liberia is grappling with many of the issues that South Africa had grappled with in the move towards democracy, and the meeting had been organised to allow South Africans and Liberians the opportunity to share experiences and strategies to end the violence in Liberia, promote a

pro-woman agenda in democracy-making and reconstruction, and usher in a period of reconciliation, peace and prosperity. Presentations were made by Mr. Jerome Vervier, Mr. John Stewart and Ms. Massa Washington of the Liberian TRC, and South Africans who made presentations included Major-General Jacqueline Sedibe (retired), Ms. Yasmin Sooka, Ms. Mbangiseni Dvizhani, Ms. Mavivi Myakayaka-Manzini, Dr. Anne Letsebe, Ms. Lydia Meshoe and Ms. Viwe Qegu.

## **SAWID JUNE 2006 STRATEGY PLANNING AND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP**

SAWID organised a Strategy Planning and Leadership Workshop from the 23rd to the 25th of June 2006 at the ABSA Conference Centre in Montana Park for national and provincial steering committee members and members of South Africa's National Gender Machinery. The participants reflected on national and provincial initiatives since 2003; assessed the impact of their interactions on the lives of women, communities, private and governmental structures, and discussed the appropriate supportive yet independent relationship between the National Steering committee and its provincial counterparts. The leadership workshop was facilitated by Colin Hall and his team from *Learning to Lead*. Thiru Pillay and six colleagues from *Deloitte* facilitated the Strategy Planning Session. The outcomes of this workshop will be available in the next newsletter.

## **YOUNG WOMEN KNOWLEDGE AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME JUNE 2006**

Three young women nominated by SAWID attended a Young Women Knowledge and Leadership Institute (YOWLI) programme in Senegal, sponsored by the African Women's Millennium Initiative on Poverty and Human Rights (AWOMI) organisation. They were Naledi Kekana from YSAWID, Lerato Mofokeng of the Girl's Education Movement (GEM) and Ms Nikiwe Kaunda from the Gender Health and Research Unit of the University of Cape Town. They were in Senegal from the 24th of June to the 23rd of July. They were sourced through the youth structures represented in the Presidential Working Group which now includes YSAWID.

## **ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION JULY 2006**

In response to SAWID's engagement in dialogue with women from the DRC, Burundi and the Great Lakes Region, our Department of Foreign Affairs has involved grassroots women in Election Observer Missions through the SAWID Secretariat. In this regard, Ms. Nonqaba Mosonkuthu and Ms. Gertrude Mzizi observed the Burundi Elections in July 2005 while Ms. Bathabile Madonsela and Ms. Bibi Suraya Khan observed the Tanzanian elections in October and December 2005. SAWID nominated three women

to observe the DRC elections, which took place on 30 July 2006. The SAWID delegation was part of the Official South African Observer Mission. SAWID nominees who received training for this mission are Ms. Basetsane Thokoane (Gauteng), Ms. Mangaka Modiakgotla (Free State) and Ms. Virginia Bhengu (KZN).

## **AUGUST 2006 PARTNERSHIP WITH IDT**

In August 2006, the Independent Development Trust (IDT), an organisation that contributes to the broad developmental agenda, offered to build a partnership with SAWID through a capacity development programme. IDT set itself an immediate objective to assist SAWID in fulfilling the following challenges for a three-year period:

sustainable funding to promote SAWID 's institutional capacity and to facilitate the implementation of a Development Commission Programme under the auspices of a Development Caravan  
poverty reduction & other developmental programmes - through linkages to the national development goals & programmes  
strengthening dialogues for women both nationally and within the continent  
peace and stability programmes in the country and within the continent  
building a knowledge management base for SAWID through a resource centre to ensure sustainable research & development

To formalise this partnership, a Memorandum of Agreement was prepared and signed on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006 at the IDT headquarters in Faerie Glen..

## **AUGUST 2006 OLDER PERSONS: ALEXANDRA & DURBAN**

The SAWID Older Persons Programme seeks to advance the rights of Older people, especially women, mobilize community support in contributing towards a better life for older persons in their communities, create awareness of their plight, honour and appreciate their role in the struggle for freedom, and provide a platform for older persons to impart knowledge and skills and to instill values in the youth.

In line with all the other programmes of SAWID, a Commission was appointed to look into the issues and challenges of older persons. Under the leadership of the Chairperson of the Older Persons's Commission, Isigodlo Trustee Dr. Khosi Khumalo, the programme has successfully launched two programmes in Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal.

In collaboration with the Spousal office, SAWID launched the older persons programme in Alexandra from the 1<sup>st</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> August 2006 and in Durban from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> of August in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's March to Pretoria in 1956. The slogan of the event was "1976 Generation Honouring 1956 Veterans. " The plan was to have a series of activities focusing on the older person, encouraging youth to participate in improving the lives of the older persons in their communities.

In Alexandra 50 volunteers were deployed in two old age homes to assist with the cleaning and care of the older persons. Other volunteers made a list of the numbers of older persons in the community, their health status and their needs, facilitating transport and volunteer deployment. Volunteers provided services that included gardening, laundry, kitchen support, and painting and renovation of residences. Many of the volunteers had never before been inside a retirement home within their own community, and the older persons were very happy to interact with young people.

In partnership with the Department of Social Development, Directorate for the Care of the Older Persons, an Intergenerational Dialogue was held at the Itlokomeleng old age home in Alexandra. Older persons from the community and St. Gerald's also attended the dialogue, where various topics were discussed with the youth from the community. The dialogue was so fruitful that both the older persons and the youth requested more dialogues, noting that it provided them with a platform to be heard. A final celebratory event to honour older persons took place at Altrek Stadium in Alexandra and was attended by around 4000 people.

A similar programme was launched in Durban, targeting four old age homes from the townships of Kwa-Mashu and surroundings, Umlazi, Clermont and Lamontville, and involving more than 200 volunteers. The programmes managed to bring together various stakeholders, including the Departments of Housing, Sports and Recreation, Public Works, Health, including the departments of Health in the Johannesburg Metro and the City of Durban, SAPS, Metro Police and the municipal government through councilors, and private sector stakeholders like ACSA, Nestle and Coca Cola. In this manner SAWID sought to ensure that the needs of the elderly are addressed in a sustainable manner.

The Commission on Older Persons was enhanced by the appointment of specialists in the field of ageing and people who are strongly involved in service provision to older persons, drawn from Government, the Private sector, Institutions of Higher learning, Geriatric Centers, NGOs and community level. The following people were appointed to this advisory commission: SAWID stalwarts like the late Prof. Harriet Ngubane, Mrs. Lindi Myeza, Mrs. Jane Ngobese (Durban veteran), Mrs. Abedha Khan

(Southern Forums: Older Persons), Ms. Martha Mokholo, (Age in Action), Dr. Marie Strydom, (Department of Health,) Ms. Thuli Mahlangu, (Department of Social Development), Mrs. L. Ngcobo (KZN legislature) Prof. Monica Ferreira, (Albertina & Walter Sisulu Centre for Ageing), and Ms. Sindiswa Mathiso (Human Rights Commission:Older persons).

The objectives of this committee are to:

- Be the advisory and advocacy body on issues affecting older persons.
- Oversee the strategic co-ordination of the older persons programme
- Provide advice to the board and SAWID staff on policies, plans and services that impact on older persons
- Receive and analyze opinions and facilitate close and regular monitoring of policy implementation by government
- Liaise with other organizations and networks that have a direct interest in older persons in South Africa.

The first meeting of the Older Persons Commission took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2007, with an informative presentation by Dr. Monde Makiwane on a study conducted by the HSRC on older persons. During a very lively discussion the participants discussed the challenges faced by older persons. The meeting was well attended and ended on a very positive note. The advisory committee will meet three times a year unless compelling circumstances demand additional meetings.

SAWID proposes to continue improving the living environment of older persons through gardening projects, administration and management workshops to assist in the effective running of old age homes, awareness projects, the hosting of a proposed National Older Person's Dialogue and provincial intergenerational dialogues.

### **HONOURING WOMEN'S MARCH VETERAN MRS. MARTHA DLAMINI**

As part of the Older Person's Programme, family, friends, and members of SAWID's staff honoured veteran of the 1956 Women's March, Ms. Martha Dlamini, who was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 1928 at Vrede Thembalihle Location. Ms. Dlamini moved to Alexandra Township with her family when she was 17 years old, and became actively involved in politics in the late 50s, when she participated in the famed Women's March to the Union Buildings to protest the pass laws.

Priest Rev Banda from the Swazi Zionist Church of Alexandra opened the proceedings with a prayer. SAWID was represented by Ms Pat Mothoane, (Managing Director), Ms Ntombi Shangase, (Manager, Older Persons Programme), Ms Thembi Mguga, (Administrative Officer) Ms Danisile

Mange (Regional Manager), and Ms. Sibongile Masangwane, (Coordinator, Older Persons). Family members and friends from the old age home and neighbourhood attended the event to honour the extraordinary but often unknown women who struggled to liberate South Africa.

## SEPTEMBER 2006

## STUDY TOUR TO CHILE AND TUNISIA

In September 2006, a delegation of 15 South Africans, convened by South African Women in Dialogue, (SAWID) visited Chile and Tunisia to study “in situ” effective programmes for poverty eradication. These two countries had been selected as both Chile and Tunisia have managed to halve poverty before the stated goal of 2015 recommended by the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The delegation included representatives from the Presidency, the Finance Department, Foreign Affairs, Social Development, the Independent Development Trust (IDT), and members from SAWID and AMFISA, the Association of Microfinance Institutions.

This tour highlighted critical success factors that both countries applied in order to ensure the impact of their interventions. These ran across government, private sector, NGO and CBO programmes, and were informed by the following key insights:

**Poverty can only be successfully eradicated by targeting the poorest of the poor**, which has allowed these countries to target the most vulnerable families (Chile) and people living in shadow areas (Tunisia) with differentiated intervention products.

**Poverty can only be successfully dealt with in a coordinated and integrated matter.** A national framework drives policy and coordinates programmes involving both private sector and civil society, while direct human intervention is done through psycho-social workers assigned to individual families.

**Poverty programmes need to be centrally monitored and every step of implementation measured:** In these countries, decentralised delivery takes place through civil servants, the private sector and civil society, who are trained and monitored by a centralised Ministry of Planning that is accountable to cabinet.

**Poverty Eradication is linked to a dedicated Women’s Ministry:** Both these countries have recognized the need for the establishment of an effective Ministry of Women with a budget and executive authority, accountable to cabinet, regarding women’s advancement in all areas of human development.

**The eradication of poverty depends on the availability of diverse funds:** In both these countries structured and funded institutions, including a Solidarity Fund and Solidarity Bank (Tunisia) and FOSIS (Chile) are

charged with social mobilization of all sectors of society with the common goal of poverty eradication.

These findings have been presented to various government formations, including the policy unit in the Presidency, a multi-party group of women leaders, members of cabinet, parliament, the social cluster of FOSAD and a Cabinet Committee.

SAWID shared its insights that what has made a difference in Chile and Tunisia was the forging of a national consensus that poverty eradication should be given priority status, that an attitude of solidarity and volunteerism should be fostered nationally, so that the privileges, knowledge and resources of one sector of the population could come in direct contact with the needs of another; that the efforts of all stakeholders should be coordinated, that a ministry of women or a strong executive arm of government is established to protect and guarantee the rights and interests of women, and is able to initiate required programmes, that a dedicated poverty fund is allocated, and that programs are planned in 5-year cycles where each targeted poor family is graduated from a dependence on grants through the acquisition of skills and resources and effective access to services, identification, health, education, housing, water and sanitation services, capacitation and access to livelihood.

On Saturday, December 2, 2006, around sixty South African women from around the country attended a breakfast meeting on **Lessons Learnt Regarding Women's Empowerment in Chile and Tunisia**, hosted by the SAWID patron Ms. Zanele Mbeki, in Bryntirion Estates, Pretoria.

The women who had been invited to attend were drawn from the following formations: women ministers and deputy ministers, women directors general from both national and provincial level, women premiers, as well as representatives from all the different political parties in parliament, and executive members of the ANC Women's League, because of their influential positions in national policy development. The participants also included Isigodlo Trustees, SAWID Steering Committee members and the members of the Chile/Tunisia Study Tour.

The purpose of the Breakfast Briefing was to present the findings of the Chile Tunisia Study Tour, to critically evaluate these findings and to make concrete proposals for presentation to appropriate policy makers.

The briefing reminded women policy makers that success requires more than gender mainstreaming, and that the challenge of women empowerment is deeply aligned to that of poverty eradication. Women empowerment cannot be achieved in the absence of successful poverty eradication strategies, and successful poverty eradication strategies require

the targeting of the poorest of the poor through families; the integration and coordination of the efforts of all stakeholders, government-aided NGO delivery systems, diverse development funds, and dedicated ministries. South Africa opted for a National Gender Machinery in 1994, with a weak executive arm and mainstreaming of women's issues through all departments. It was suggested that women reopen the debate regarding women's empowerment needs and the structures in place to meet them.

## **MARCH 2007      CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE ON POVERTY ERADICATION**

On March 05<sup>th</sup>, 2007, SAWID participated in a one-day Civil Society Dialogue on Poverty Eradication, hosted by the South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) at the ESKOM Conference Centre in Midrand. The objective of this dialogue of around 80 people, comprised of the major civil society formations that sits in ECOSOC, was to:

- Provide an update on the APRM mechanisms and review the Civil Society APRM Report
- Facilitate dialogue and consensus on the role of civil society in the formulation of a poverty eradication strategy for South Africa
- Take stock and draw lessons whilst harnessing the collective potential of civil society with action steps towards poverty eradication

Speakers included Ms. Zanele Twala, SANGOCO CEO, who spoke on the APRM Process and Plan of Action: Implications for Civil Society, and Mr. Ebrahim-Khalil Hassen, an independent Policy Analyst, who spoke on Poverty: A Civil Society Perspective. Ms. Vuyo Mahlati and Mr. Mangaliso Williams presented the key findings from the SAWID study tour to Chile and Tunisia, and Ms. Thembi Nwedamutswu from IDT elaborated on the multi-sectoral challenges of Poverty Eradication. The respondents from Civil Society included Bishop Dandala, Ms. Lungile Bhengu, and Ms. Margaret Legum from the South African New Economics Network (SANE).

## **MARCH 2007      UNFT/SAWID DIALOGUE: TUNISIA**

During the study tour to Tunisia in September 2006, the South African delegation was also received and hosted by the President and Executive of the UNFT (Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne/National Union of Tunisian Women), a membership organization of more than 100 000 Tunisian women.

In discussions SAWID and the UNFT recognized the complementarity in both their organizations, and as it transpired that the Tunisian women were

celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the Personal Status Code of August 1956, just as South Africa was commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Women's March to the Union Building in August 1956, it was agreed to explore ways to celebrate these two milestones jointly on International Women's Day.

A joint steering committee met in December 2006 in Tunisia to chart the way forward. SAWID was represented in these discussions by Ms. Rosieda Shabodien, Ms. Vuyo Mahlati and Ms. Mohau Pheko. It was agreed to pursue a bi-lateral dialogue that celebrates women's achievements in the two countries.

As a result of the decision taken in December 2006, a South African delegation of twenty, led by Ms. Maite Mashabane, Ambassador and Provincial Minister of Local Government and Housing, attended a conference in Tunisia on International Women's Day, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2007. The theme of the event was **Women, Peace and Prosperity**, with a special emphasis on Gender Related Legislation, Women in Public Office, ICT and Business.

The Objectives of the Conference were

To exchange best practice and success stories related to regulation and active life involvement in the mentioned fields of law, ICT, business and public life

To raise awareness of the urgent need to have a global equity in legislation and address obstacles to women's advancement.

The Tunisian speakers included Ms. Faiza Kefi, President of the Account's Court, Ms. Nassima Ghannouchi, Member of the National Parliament of Tunisia and Secretary General of the UNFT, Ms. Khadija Madani, Lawyer, , Ms Souad Khalfallah, Lawyer And Chair Of The Alliance Of Women In The Legal Professions, and the South African team included Ms. Vytjie Mentor, Member Of The National Parliament Of South Africa, Prof. Cathi Albertyn: Professor of Law at the University Of The Witwatersrand, Ms. Hazel Gumede Shelton, Lawyer In Constitutional Law, And South Africa's CEDAW Representative To The United Nations.

After the conference, gender analyst Ms. Nomboniso Gasa, pointed out the following recommended areas of action:

1. The protection of an enabling legislative framework, the need to strengthen national gender machineries and the focus on the Women's Protocol.

2. Advancing gender equality and addressing poverty through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) , creating ICT centres in communities and creating an education curriculum that prepares women to become both ICT technicians and content providers.
3. Promoting gender equality and women's advancement in public life and in the business community , ensuring that the market is made to work in favour of women.

**MARCH 2007**

**CSW NEW YORK**

The 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nation Commission of the Status of Women (UNCSW) in New York, held from 26 February - 09 March 2007, was attended by a SAWID delegation consisting of Isigodlo Trustee, Ms. Mathabo Kunene, and three young women, Modjadji Alidia Seabi, Maria Molokomme and Khensani Miyambo, who were sponsored by Eskom. The theme for the UNCSW 51<sup>st</sup> Session was: *The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.*

The debates around this issues were divided into two panel themes, theme one being *Key policy initiatives to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child*; and theme two being *Capacity-building on mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.* An additional [interactive dialogue](#) session evaluated the progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality.

With the assistance of the organizers at the Church Centre, used for the NGO parallel sessions, Ms. Seabi organized and facilitated a session that encouraged young African girls to come together and share information about issues affecting girls in their respective countries. The theme was *African Girls in Dialogue: About us, for us, by us.* The session was attended by the old and the young from various countries, with four young girls, Denise Miliee from Mozambique, Bella Pitekelabou from Togo, and the two from South Africa. The discussion was graced by the presence and responses from Ms. Mathabo Kunene and Adv.Tseliso Thipanyane, the CEO of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), who was attending the UNCSW to present a paper on human rights for girls. The highlight of the visit included an opportunity to visit the SA Ambassador to the UN, Mr. Dumisani Kumalo, as the President of the UN Security Council, in his chamber, and attending the address by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon on the International Women's Rights Day - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

The delegation learnt that most countries have several issues of common concern affecting girls from childhood to adulthood. It was agreed that there is a need to increase the level of dialogue, and to begin engaging boys and men in the struggle against discrimination and violence against the girl-child. There were lessons on an integrated approach to dealing with gender stereotypes, sanitation for girls, safety measures implemented in other African countries, young women languishing in jails and ICTs. Other issues included cultural practices that perpetuate discrimination and violence against the girl-child; programmes on gender sensitivity training for parents and teachers; and measures to discourage girl's only sports.

**APRIL 2007**

**SAWID/UNFT ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE: SA**

A commemorative dialogue between Tunisian women and South African women took place in Pretoria and Cape Town from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2007, embroidering further on the theme of 'Women Peace and Prosperity'. The objectives of the dialogue were to exchange best practice in poverty eradication strategies, legislative dispensations, public life and corporate business participation; to promote international protocols for global equity in legislation protecting women, to highlight the importance of ICT's for women, so that they can contribute more to development and innovation, and to identify constraints preventing women from taking up leadership and decision-making positions.

The President of the Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne, (UNFT) Ms. Aziza Hatira attended with 9 other Tunisian women, Ms. Khira Lagha Ben Fadhl, Ms. Nassima Ghannouchi, Ms. Najoua Miladi, Ms. Saloua Tarzi, Ms. Saida Rahmouni, Ms. Souad Khalfallah, Ms. Amel Abbas, Ms. Rim Belhaj and Ms. Sarra Bouzid. South African speakers included the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nkosazana Zuma, Dr. Frene Ginwala, Ms. Irene Charnley, Ms. Lisa Vetten and Ms. Nomfundo Nguse. Judges Yvonne Mokgoro, Kate O' Regan and Albie Sachs and Western Cape Premier Mr. Ebrahim Rasool also hosted the Tunisian delegation.

The dialogue included visits to the Apartheid Museum, the women's jail at Constitution Hill, and the Cradle of Humankind. Dialogues were conducted at the Constitutional Court and Parliament, allowing for bi-lateral partnerships to form between the Tunisian delegation and their South African counterparts.

In their final declaration, the women of SAWID and the UNFT declared their commitment to a fair, equitable and just society where the full potential of all humans is recognized, nurtured and developed.

They noted with concern the challenges and constraints that inhibit women from the full enjoyment of their rights and the unleashing of their potential, including all forms of poverty, deprivations and marginalisation that inhibit the full attainment of human security. They recognized that patriarchal belief systems and cultural and religious practices still limit women's full equality in the private and public domains.

They resolved to intensify the recognition of women's agency role towards social cohesion and sustainable development, and committed themselves to work together to build on this dialogue, to strengthen their relations and facilitate the sharing of successful practices and lessons learnt for the advancement of their societies and the ultimate goal of ensuring that women are placed at the centre of Africa's development.

#### **MAY 2007 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SUDANESE WOMEN IN POLITICS**

From May 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 a delegation of six from (SAWID), under the leadership of Isigodlo Trustee Dr. Thandi Ndlovu, attended the National Conference of Sudanese Women in Politics held at the Samani campus of Juba University under the auspices of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs of the Government of South Sudan and the UNDP. The other members of the delegation were Ms. Stella Williams, (Traditional Healer), Ms. Gertrude Mzizi, (Gauteng MPL/IFP), Ms. Kiki Rweqana, (National MP/ANC), Ms. Sylvia Sigcau, (National MP/UDM), and Ms. Marthe Muller; (SAWID Secretariat - Documentation and Logistics).

SAWID's presence at this conference aimed at demonstrating the solidarity of the women of South Africa with the struggle of Sudanese women to restore peace in their country after a protracted civil war, and to share their experiences of healing and reconciliation, peace-building, dialogue, post-conflict management, business and development. The trip also sought to assess the infrastructural challenges facing the women and people of Sudan.

Sudanese women from different cultures, regions and religions noted that they remained under-represented in all structures of government, including the civil service and private sector, and demanded that the constitutional provision of 25% women's representation at all levels be legislated to ensure implementation. They further demanded educational facilities for women, a reproductive health infrastructure and the provision of income generation activities. They suggested that a reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation programme be established to cleanse the blood shed and heal the wounds inflicted on the Sudanese population during the liberation struggle, especially in terms of women, youth, elderly and the disabled. Sudanese women also proposed that a national network of women be

instituted to enable women to come up with a common agenda and talk in one voice.

## **JUNE 2007 LAUNCH OF FIDA SA**

In January 2007 the founding members of the South African Chapter of the International Federation Of Women Lawyers (FIDA SA) adopted their constitution and elected an executive committee. On June 2nd 2007, FIDA SA was launched at a ceremony held on Constitution Hill, with an attendance of over 80 members from Kwazulu-Natal, Limpopo, North West, the Northern Cape, the Eastern Cape and Gauteng. The MC was Ms. Siki Mgabadelo of the SABC and the keynote address was delivered by Dr. Joyce Piliso-Seroke, Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality. Advocate Nokukhanya Jele introduced the vision and mission of FIDA and the projects and programmes that FIDA SA undertakes to set up and implement were discussed under the following themes:

Collaboration with Programmes of Legal Aid - the focus of FIDA SA will be to work with existing providers of legal services in order to supplement their work, thus ensuring that women, children and vulnerable persons gain access to justice;

Education and Rights Awareness - FIDA SA hopes to assist in this field, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the media, and concentrating on a range of issues, from domestic violence and matrimonial matters to assistance with entrepreneurship. Links with educational institutions, and use of FIDA SA as a lobbying tool, will also form part of FIDA SA's work in this area.

International Relations - links with African chapters of FIDA was discussed, in order to establish opportunities for exchanges and create collaborations for continent-wide projects.

In upcoming months FIDA SA will focus on setting up operational systems and a database, arranging workshops with stakeholders and identifying partnerships. This will contribute to researching, refining and implementing the projects identified. The Launch was an encouraging and highly motivating start, and highlighted the wealth of knowledge and commitment to access to justice that South Africa has within the ranks of its legal practitioners. The next step is to ensure that this enthusiasm is put to good use for the benefit of South Africa's women, children and vulnerable people.

## **SAWID JULY 2007 ANNUAL DIALOGUE: FROM DIALOGUE TO DEVELOPMENT: WOMEN UNITING AGAINST POVERTY**

From the 2nd to the 6th of July, in the bitter cold of winter, around 1700 South African women gathered at the Uni-Oord Church at the University of Pretoria to take the lead in the process of eradicating poverty in our country by linking their dialogue to action.

During the annual SAWID dialogues in 2003 & 2005 women observed that the greater majority of South African Women continue to be locked in poverty, and are therefore unable to participate effectively in the spaces created by the new democracy. Women from all nine provinces, the majority of them rural women, therefore united to dialogue towards an action plan on dealing with rural and urban poverty and recommit themselves to women's role as leaders in this agenda.

The dialogue brought together women development practitioners, researchers and academics, women in civil society and the private sector; and women working in communities, faith-based organisations and youth structures. Key note speakers included President Thabo Mbeki and Deputy President Ms. Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka. Other speakers included Ms. Zanele Mbeki, Dr. Edith Vries, Ms. Susan Nkomo, Ms. Nomboniso Gasa, Ms. Daphne Nkosi, Ms. Sandra Botha and Mr. Thami ka Laatjie.

Key findings from the Chile Tunisia Study tour were discussed and evaluated in order to inform the emergent SAWID Plan of Action. The dialogue focused on expounding the SAWID Development Caravan Model/poverty eradication strategy, and explore strategies to strengthen the National Gender Machinery.

SAWID also sought to gather support for a collective shift in South African attitudes towards supportive and nurturing partnerships between government, private sector and civil society that maximise human energy, collaboration and service.

In their declaration at the end of the dialogue, women noted that they had come together to imagine a different world and expressed their solidarity with women of their continent.

They called for the establishment of both a Ministry on Women and a Ministry

Of Planning and Development, which they believe will ensure the effective implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly that of halving poverty and the enforcement of the socio-economic rights enshrined in South Africa's constitution. They emphasised the urgency of establishing a Women's Development Fund, and expressed their deepest concern at the levels of violence against women of all ages.

## **JULY 2007 GOLDMAN SACHS GLOBAL LEADERS PROGRAM**

Naledi Kekana, a student at the University of the Witwatersrand and a participant of YSAWID, was selected as one of six Goldman Sachs Global Leaders from South Africa. As a project of the Goldman Sachs Foundation in partnership with the Institute of International Education, the Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program seeks to train and develop tomorrow's educators, policy makers, business leaders, research scientists, social entrepreneurs, and other professionals and to create an international network through which they can share ideas, work collaboratively, and begin to change the world, together. It is an annual international competition that runs in over 90 top-ranked universities in 19 countries. The competition identifies and rewards the academic excellence and leadership potential of 150 of the most accomplished second-year students from all disciplines. Naledi was further selected with two other South African Global Leaders, Joe Roussos from Wits and Maria Jose from UCT, to represent the group at the Goldman Sachs Global Leadership Institute in New York City which was held from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of July. At the Institute, the South African participants had an opportunity to meet and interact with 72 other Global Leaders from other parts of the world. Together, the students participated in leadership training and seminars on timely international issues. They also had an opportunity to consult with renowned leaders in the public, civic and private sectors and build ties among themselves based on shared experiences and common goals.

## **SEPTEMBER 2007      SAWID/DPLG POLICY PROCESS**

On Friday morning, **October 26, 2007**, around 200 women from all the provinces of South Africa gathered at the **Vulindlela Auditorium of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)** in Midrand under the patronage of South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), and with the sponsorship of the Independent Development Trust, (IDT) the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and the Women's Development Foundation, (WDF) to provide their inputs as members of civil society into the Policy Process on the System of Provincial and Local Government.

The objective of the meeting had been to participate in the consultative process of the Department of Provincial and Local Government and to place women's issues at the centre of the developmental processes taking place in the country.

Speakers included **Dr. Lulu Makhubela**, Research Manager at the DBSA, **Ms. Thoko Mpmumlwana**, Deputy Chairperson of the Isigodlo Trust and an IDT Trustee, **Ms. Girlie Njoni**, Acting General Manager of SAWID, and **Ms. Sheila Hughes** from the DPLG. The two facilitators were **Ms. Geci Karuri-Sebina** from the HSRC and **Ms. Jane Kabuki** from the DBSA.

During the Workshop the women of South Africa emphasized the following issues that needed to be attended to in order to ensure that the existing forms of government remain appropriate to meet the changing demands of women, and that the functions and structures of the three tiers of government are still relevant to women's needs.

1. Custom/Tradition/Patriarchal Issues
2. Promoting Gender Equality at Communal Level
3. Empowerment of Women in Political Issues and the Political Agenda
4. The Need To Enhance The Quality Of Women's Lives Through Increased Access To Quality Basic Services
5. Human Security and a Healthy Environment
6. Accountability
7. Linking the Local Economic Development Plans and National Poverty Eradication Strategies

**OCTOBER 2007**

**INDIA BRAZIL SOUTH AFRICA WOMEN'S FORUM**

From October 15-16 2007 the women of India, Brazil and South Africa came together as an IBSA Women's Forum in Johannesburg to facilitate joint efforts and collaboration to transform women's lives in the three countries, strongly supporting their governments' efforts to deepen South-South Cooperation and promote equitable and sustainable development within and among their countries. The women were meeting in the context of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, which resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, signed by the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Dr Manmohan Singh, the President of Brazil, H.E. Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and the President of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki in Tshwane, South Africa, on 17 October 2007.

The women of the three countries presented a draft concept paper which calls for an inclusive macro-economic framework that recognises the full value of women's work, paid and unpaid, in all spheres where women's contribution is currently invisible and not valued; the integration of gender perspective into all trade agreements to ensure that they do not have an adverse impact on women's lives and promotes equality, and gender responsive budgets.

**DECEMBER 2007**

**YSAWID DIALOGUE**

Between 10 - 14 December 2007, around 450 young women from the nine provinces of South Africa attended a Young Women in Dialogue Forum at the Assemblies of God Conference Centre in Meyerton, aimed at addressing Personal Development and Economic Empowerment, two of the four pillars of activity which young women had identified in 2004 as necessary for their development. Interventions included presentations by the Deputy President, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Minister Lulama Xingwana of Land Affairs and Agriculture, and various young poets, gender activists and experts in health, income generation and youth empowerment. Workshops were provided on Financial Management, Project Management, Leadership Development, Enterprise Development, Life Skills Training, HIV and AIDS Immune Response, Personal Development, Computer Training and Volunteer Work in the Community. In their declaration young women noted that they wanted to be at the forefront of nurturing human potential, developing self identity, developing inter-racial and inter-faith dialogue forums, empowering young women to understand their civil liberties, duties and responsibilities, seeking economic opportunities for young women, and resolved to engage the private sector and development institutions on the development of young women, including a focus on skills development, and poverty eradication.

## **FEBRUARY 2008                    MIPREDA CONGO BRAZZAVILLE**

From the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2008, members from SAWID attended the 6th Conference of the Mission of Peace by the First Ladies of Africa in Brazzaville, Congo. The Conference was preceded by a symposium of experts that focused on the dynamics of peace and related interventions. Areas covered included analysis of management of these problems in Africa, with recommendations to political/policy decisions-makers, nationally and internationally. The meeting also provided an opportunity for First Ladies to complete the discussions begun in Addis Ababa on July 7, 2004 and then in Ouagadougou on February 9, 2005, in an attempt to gather all different associations led by the First Ladies of Africa. The objective of the symposium was to increase the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict management and peace-building in Africa. Expected outcomes included a Action 2008-2010 Action Plan, the establishment of a continental network of women for peace, and a Brazzaville statement . The Conference affirmed the critical role of the *Peace Mission of African First Ladies*, suggesting that a clear plan of action be developed that can be funded; including initiatives for the creation of linkages and solidarity networks, the prevention of peace, the role and place of women in disarmament operations, women's involvement in negotiations and peace management, and the strengthening of women's leadership

## Read More:

Executive Summary of Mipreda 12 - 15 February 2008

**FEBRUARY 2008  
STATUS**

## **UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE OF WOMEN: FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

The key issues discussed during the UN CSW 2008 were Gender Architecture & Financing for Gender Equality & the Empowerment of Women, with the main goal of the 2008 theme being articulated as the eradication of poverty for sustainable livelihood and sustained economic growth. The following main themes were discussed in both the NGO and UN parallel sessions, workshops and roundtables throughout the week.

- Financing for success and security
- Strengthening of the UN gender architecture
- Addressing the time gap between political commitments and policy implementation.
- Financing for MDG 3
- Gender responsive budgeting

There was sharing of research papers, conducting of workshops, launching of campaigns and an exchange of best practice. Subjects discussed focused on: care work, a holistic approach to financing for development, the Monterey consensus, investment in women and girls to end the feminization of poverty, a focus for resources and the strengthening of machineries.

### **The GEAR Campaign**

There was a call to strengthen the UN gender architecture in order to meaningfully support women's organizations by having a vigorous presence in countries and by adopting a stronger operational mandate. It was noted that UNIFEM, as the operations arm of the UN, is poorly resourced to meet the enormous needs of women. A proposal that was put forward by civil society led by AWID, DAWN and other NGO's listed up to 100 NGOs across the world. The proposal recommends that the UN establish *an entity* combining the four gender divisions (DAW, INSTRAW, UNIFEM & OSAGI), and that the entity be led by an Under Secretary General. Failing which the call is that UNIFEM be strengthened by allocating more money to support the operations and implementation of women's initiatives and the immediate appointment of an above "Director" position to lead UNIFEM.

## **The MDG 3 Fund**

The MDG 3 applies the elimination of gender disparities in primary and secondary education as the indicator of the empowerment of women. Government is called to finance this goal, to provide finance for community-owned social education and to adopt a gender responsive budgeting that will ensure national infrastructure to support women's access to education etc.

A fund was launched (termed MDG3 Fund) by the Global Fund for women with seed capital to the tune of 6 million Euros from the Netherlands government. This fund will be distributed by HIVOS. The fund will target grass roots initiatives, mid- and big- sized enterprises and NGO's. Part of the fund will be used to educate NGO's to diversify their sources of income - for institutional development (even funding salaries) and to ensure a long term approach.

### **Read More:**

Joint Report by the Delegation to the UN CSW 2008  
UN CSW SAWID Report 2008

## **MARCH 2008**

## **NAMIBIAN WOMEN'S DIALOGUE**

SAWID GM Ms. Girlie Silinda and Ms. Suraya Bibi Khan from SAWID Southern Forums attended a Namibian Women's dialogue hosted by the South African High Commission in Windhoek, during a very successful week full of South African culture from 9 - 13 March 2008. The week ended with the Women's Dialogue and Ms. Silinda as the main speaker. The Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare as well as her deputy and the Deputy Minister of Health also took part in the discussion, "Women Unite in Action and Act in Unity for Development." Women, mostly from grassroots level, showed much interest in working closer with women in South Africa and forming a Namibian Women in Dialogue. (NAWID).

## **APRIL 2008 ASSOCIATION**

## **ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE OF THE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS (SA-DHAN) IN INDIA**

This annual policy conference on micro-finance was held at the Hotel Ashok, in New Delhi, India on April 02 & 03 2008, and attended on behalf of

SAWID by Ms. Ntjantja Ned, Social Development specialist and key consultant to the SAWID Development Caravan pilot project. The 2008 theme focused on the inclusion of the poor into the mainstream of society. Through micro-finance as a tool for inclusion, the country has managed to cover a small percentage of the poor, with 80% of the low income segment of the population yet to be covered. With the current coverage at 36.8 million borrowers, there has been a need to address specific sore issues to refine the growth trajectory of the movement. Among these are the following;

- Human resource needs required to effectively cope with the growth as well as the competencies necessary for efficient implementation of the various microfinance products
- Technological interventions which open a huge scope for the broadening of the services to the poor
- Regional expansion and focus in the underserved areas of the country
- Integration with livelihoods and micro-enterprises
- Should micro-credit be coupled with other safety nets like insurance and pension for a comprehensive package? and
- Review of legislative efforts of the microfinance sector.

Participants at the conference were predominantly from the various regions of India, and a few from outside, mainly from South Africa and Uganda. (The latter had a Minister of State for Finance, Planning & Economic Development/Micro-Finance addressing the conference.)

The Microfinance environment in India is significantly different from the South African one in two main ways. First the social assistance framework and the principles inherent in our Constitution provide the primary and arguably the most effective protection for the poor. What remains our challenge is the effective (conscious) linking of the social grants to effective development initiatives aimed at graduating people from poverty to self reliance. Secondly, the options for the poor on financing provide a conducive environment for a pro-poor agenda. The challenge is the adoption of practical options that would take services to the hard to reach/underserved parts of the country. The third interesting aspect of the conference was the topic on Human Resources and issue of organizational capacity to deliver. Much as the inputs were on Microfinance, it was strikingly similar to challenges of the NGO sector to improve its competencies, to improve governance and to be competitive, show ability to deliver superior service, and to improve their image.

**Read More:**

## Report on the Annual Policy Conference 2008 in India

**MAY 2008**

### **YOUTH PLEDGE CAMPAIGN**

South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), under the banner of Young South African Women in Dialogue (YSAWID), engaged the process of soliciting opinions from young women on the youth pledge proposed by the Department of Education. The expected outcomes of this process were to stimulate vibrant debate and dialogue on air showcasing the opinions of girl children on the proposed pledge, to provide a submission regarding the youth pledge, summarizing the input from girl children in all nine provinces for presentation to government, to ensure increased public participation by girl children in the affairs of the nation, and to encourage increased debate around the issue of national unity and nation-building.

A majority of young women accepted the pledge as is, and some were extremely positively disposed towards the proposed pledge. Challenges, however, included issues like a perceived lack of consultation with the youth and the actual wording of the pledge. A need for more information, debate and opportunity for buy-in was articulated, and young women expressed their interest in civic engagement and community participation. A research report and recommendations were submitted to the Department of Education.

#### **Read More:**

Youth Pledge Campaign  
Youth Pledge Statistical Analysis

**JUNE 2008**  
**ZIMBABWE**

### **SADC ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION TO**

In March and June 2008, Ms. Kedibone Molema and Ms. Liepollo Pheko were nominated to represent SAWID as part of the 550 member-SADC Election Observer Mission to the harmonised Zimbabwean elections on 29th of March 2008 and the resultant Presidential Run-off elections of the 27th June 2008. On the 12th of March 2008 a day-long workshop was held for the SA contingent, which comprised of members of political parties in parliament, labour representatives, churches, NGOs and civil society representatives, at the Zebra Country Lodge, east of Pretoria. SADC sent teams of observers to all provinces of Zimbabwe, covering both rural and urban areas. Observers described the elections as largely peaceful and a credible expression of the will of the people. Problems began to emerge after the actual elections. After numerous court cases and calls for recounts,

the presidential results were not officially announced weeks later. The atmosphere during the Presidential Run-off, by contrast, was described as extremely stressful. At most polling stations, police were more visible than election officials. Allegations of state-sponsored violence grew, abreast with regular announcements of arrests of MDC people on allegations of perpetrating violence. On the 22nd of June 2008 Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai released a statement pulling out of “a violent, illegitimate sham of an election process.” The elections went on regardless, with only ZANU-PF agents at attendance at voting stations. Many ballots were deliberately spoiled, but President Mugabe was declared winner and inaugurated soon thereafter.

### **Read More:**

SAWID Report of the SADC Election Observer Mission to Zimbabwe  
2008

**JULY 2008**

### **ALEXANDRA PEACE DIALOGUE**

Because SAWID was founded on the lessons learnt in promoting peace with women in the DRC and Burundi, the events of violence and conflict towards other African nationals, which took place in April and May 2008 in some South African communities, cajoled SAWID into urgent action of peace-building in affected communities. The brutal attacks on various African nationals leading to killings and the displacement of many from their homes left the nation traumatised, guilty and distressed. SAWID wished to respond timeously because it is the organisation’s *raison d’être* to promote inclusivity in diversity among South Africans and on the continent. The dialogue was not intended to mediate or even resolve perceived issues, but to listen to the communities and to build understanding and peace. The objectives of the dialogue were to provide a platform for personal self-reflection among women, to reflect on South Africa’s past leading up to the conflict experienced in March to May 2008, to vision a peaceful and prosperous Alexandra and South Africa, and to propose a collective Plan of Action to achieve this vision. The peace dialogue brought personal healing through introspection and empathetic dialogue, provided indications of underlying motivations for the conflict, produced a collective Programme of Action and provided a replicable template for similar dialogues in other affected communities.

The first two days were devoted to personal introspective sessions organised by Mr Mike Boon of the Vuka South Africa programme and 50 facilitators, in breakaway groups of 25 - 30 people each. The final day consisted of capacity-building workshops; teach-ins; instructions; and

presentations on the themes, which included Conflict Management, Human Rights, Food Gardens and Food Security, Micro-finance, Refugee law, Citizenship and civic rights and responsibilities, and Self Leadership. Government departments showcased and explained their services, particularly in the areas of Housing, Health, Education, Home Affairs, Social Development, Agriculture and Trade and Industry.

**Read More:**

Grounding Peace in our Communities: Alexandra Women's Dialogue

**JULY 2008  
WORKSHOP**

**IBSA GENDER AND MACROECONOMICS**

**BRAZIL**

Around 25 participants from Brazil and South Africa gathered in Brasilia for a two-day workshop to discuss the issue of *Macro Economics and Gender: a Feminist Approach* in the context of the IBSA Women's Forum. Although the Indian delegation, who had been invited to attend, was not able to participate, they were represented by their embassy in Brazil. Minister Thoko Didiza, Minister of Public Works, led the South African delegation, which also counted with the presence of Mrs. Zanele Mbeki, as patron and founder of South African Women in Dialogue. The Brazilian delegation was led by Minister Nilcea Freire of the Special Secretariat of Women's Policies.

The outcomes of the dialogue included the decision to launch a publication on the workshop; to make a meaningful and well-targeted intervention in the global macro-economic framework, based on clear stratifications, that will give centrality to the lived experiences and special talents of women; to conduct comparative studies on women's time in the three countries, in terms of how much women contribute to the economy of their country through their investment in the reproduction of society; to conduct an audit of existing feminist instruments, tools, strategies, networks and alliances, highlighting existing instruments designed by women, like women's budgets, plus affirmative policies; and to create an audit of women's wealth, like networks, alliances and networks of community solidarity. A final decision was to encourage the mass mobilisation of women's networks in all three countries, and to create strategic alliances and allies, by hosting a citizens dialogue on macro-economic policies, thus mobilising the bottom of the pyramid in order to inverse the pyramid.

**Read More:**

IBSA Gender and Macro-Economics Proceedings Report

Brazil Seminar Summary

**AUGUST 2008**

**SADC WOMEN AND PEACE DIALOGUE**

From August 14 to 16, 2008, women and peace experts and activists from various participating SADC countries met at the Eskom Convention Centre in Midrand (and at the Apartheid Museum on the 16<sup>th</sup>) to discuss the strengthening of regional peace structures for women.

This dialogue took place in the context of the SADC Summit of the Heads of State and Government at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg from 16 - 17 August 2008. The objective of the dialogue was to give support to a new drive for African Women's involvement in the prevention and management of conflict as well as the preservation of peace through 'civil and humanitarian diplomacy.' Women from the various SADC countries shared experiences, vision together towards conflict-free communities in SADC and the African continent; identify early warning signals of conflict and suggest local interventions to prevent it.

**THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DIALOGUE WERE:**

1. To provide an impetus for, and the empowerment of, women leaders that will enable them to play a crucial and constructive role in the development of peace in their communities;
2. To expose South African Women in Peace to regional opinions and networks;
3. To build a network of solidarity;
4. To evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the gender and peace instruments in the SADC region, and
5. To develop mechanisms aimed at strengthening regional peace structures for women.

**THE OUTCOMES WERE:**

A common thematic area from the spectrum of peace that the SADC First Ladies will collaborate on, and  
A regional network.

**Read More:**

SADC Women and Peace Dialogue Concept Document  
Press Release  
Speech by Nigerian First Lady Haija Turai Yar'Adua  
Conference Report on SADC Women and Peace Dialogue

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008  
FINANCING FOR**

**SAWID ANNUAL DIALOGUE:**

## **GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

After various dialogues, round-tables, study tours and work-shops, locally, continentally and globally, SAWID has refined its thinking sufficiently to be able to propose innovative strategies to elevate the struggle for women empowerment from problem-solving to the creation of sustainable solutions. In this year's dialogue, themed, **Financing for Gender equality and Women Empowerment**, Ms. Vuyo Mahlati, Chairperson of the SAWID Development Commission and an Isigodlo trustee, outlined the year's objectives and reviewed the array of tools for development. Finance Minister Trevor Manuel provided the keynote address and former Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi provided a report-back on the 2008 UN CSW Forum. Around 750 women from various organisations and the nine provinces gathered to provide their inputs on the following:

- An accountable Planning Ministry with executive authority

- A Ministry of Women with a budget and executive authority

- A National Centre for research and studies on women

- Structured and funded institutions with civil society partnerships charged with social mobilization

- Creation of a special fund to support women initiatives as well as support infrastructure linkages to poor communities to mainstream municipalities.

A tribute was done to older persons on October 1, 2008, Older Person's Day, with Prof. Monica Ferreira, from the Walter and Albertina Sisulu Institute of Ageing at the University of Cape Town presenting the keynote address. Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana facilitated a planning roundtable on the above-mentioned themes, and workshops were provided on Financial Literacy, Indigenous Farming, Financial Health, Self Leadership, Global Warming, Project Management, Micro Finance, Food Security, Financial Cooperatives, and Computer Training, among others.

### **Read More:**

- Concept Document

- Press Release

- 2008 Annual Dialogue newsletter

### **OCTOBER 2008**

### **IBSA WOMEN'S FORUM NEW DELHI**

The IBSA Women's Forum, which was launched by the Heads of States of India, Brazil and South Africa during the 2<sup>nd</sup> IBSA Summit in October 2007 in South Africa, with the aim of promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and accelerating poverty eradication, met for the second time in New Delhi, India in order to strengthen the partnership among the

three countries, and to facilitate the process of women's participation in people to people consultation and the sharing of best practices.

A Plan of Action was developed after identifying areas of cooperation and specific activities in each of the identified areas, and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the women of the three countries. Areas of cooperation identified in the MoU include inclusive macroeconomic policy and research, gender budgeting, women and micro finance, co-operatives with women, skills development and capacity building, violence against women, civil society partnerships, co-operation at multilateral forums, and co-operation in trilateral projects. This will take place through an exchange of information, study tours, civil society co-operation, human resource development and training, the establishment of joint institutions and implementation of joint projects, and the establishment of a Think Tank on women's development and gender equality.

Recommendations to the Head of States and Governments included the request to address the impact of the financial crisis on the lives of women; to accelerate the efforts to make visible and adequately compensate women's undervalued and un-paid work; to finance and support the studies and survey and statistics mentioned above in the conclusions; and to make all efforts to introduce gender perspective in all developmental strategies to be adopted by the International Community in the coming Doha meeting on Finance for Development. In conclusion, the participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IBSA Women's Forum, as women of India, Brazil and South Africa, added their voices, experience and intentions towards the creation of a transformative macro economic framework that will ensure fair economic growth and realization of full potential of women.

### **Read More:**

IBSA Women's Forum Newsletter

IBSA Women's Forum Proceedings Report 13 - 14 August 2008

IBSA Women's Forum Final Report to Heads of State

### **NOVEMBER 2008**

### **AWID CONFERENCE CAPE TOWN**

SAWID attended the 11th Association of Women in Development (AWID) International Forum on Women's Rights and Development which took place in Cape Town, South Africa between November 14 - 19, 2008. With over 144 countries represented at the Forum, and around 1900 women, it was AWID's biggest forum ever. Twenty percent of participants were under the age of 30, while 43% hailed from Sub-Saharan Africa. The forum theme,

introduced by Geeta Misra, was **The Power of Movements**. One of the goals of the Forum was to advance conversations and thinking among diverse women's rights advocates on elements of a shared political agenda, exploring the very structures that perpetuate inequalities, and including the voices of the marginalised, including the voices of youth, indigenous women, gay, lesbian and trans-gendered women, and women living with disabilities, in all the work that women do. Persistent challenges that were pointed out were protracted conflicts in many parts of the world, crises in democracy in many other countries, fundamentalisms, increasing inequalities, and poverty and injustice.

**Read More:** AWID report by Bibi Khan

**NOVEMBER 2008**

**3rd INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKSHOP ON  
SOUTH SOUTH COOPERATION MOZAMBIQUE**

The foreign Minister of Chile, Alejandro Foxley, and the Foreign Minister of Brazil, Celso Amorim, motivated for South-South initiatives to improve and expand ties with Sub-Saharan Africa and to establish and implement triangular and multi-lateral cooperation programmes of mutual benefit in different areas of public and private interest.

SAWID has identified poverty as one of the major obstacles that keep women from fully participating in the new democratic spaces that have been made available for them. A study tour to Chile and Tunisia in September 2006, in collaboration with IDT and various government departments, led SAWID to propose various recommendations to government, including the need for both a Women's Ministry and a Planning Ministry, and a structured poverty eradication strategy based on direct family interventions with psycho-social assistance, similar to the very successful Chilean programme *Chile Solidario*, that has allowed Chile to more than halve the number of poor people long before the targeted date of 2015 suggested by the Millennium Development Goals.

The Third Intergovernmental workshop on South South Cooperation that took place in Mozambique from November 11 - 13 2008, hosted by the Chilean Government and Ambassador Claudio Herrera, Chilean Ambassador in South Africa, especially focused on the areas of: Poverty Eradication, Agriculture, Mining and Energy, Capacitation, Insertion of Women and Rural programmes.

Presentations were made by government officials from Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Angola, Mozambique, and Chile and Ms. Grace Rapholo from IDT

and Ms. Marthe Muller from SAWID defined the main developmental challenges experienced by government and women in South Africa.

Chile presented its Chile Solidario Network of Social Protection, explained its methodology of successfully halving poverty from 45% to 18%, presented its medical and social policies, explored the gender dimensions of social protection and explained the programmes that intervene in the social and economic dimensions of poverty. They explained the transfer of resources to municipalities by a process of inclusion, implementation and independence, which has seen 330 000 families in 6 years receive psycho-social interventions, with 220 000 families having completed the intervention and 75% of these families now finding themselves out of poverty.

**Read More:**

Summary of the First Seminar on South South Cooperation, January 2007

Report on the Third Intergovernmental Seminar in Mozambique, 2008

**DECEMBER 2008**

**YSAWID STRATEGIC WORKSHOP**

The strategic planning workshop, held at the Westford Hotel in Sandton, Johannesburg, included a diverse range of over fifty young women from various backgrounds who represented eight provinces. The young women spent two days reviewing their past achievements, external influences on YSAWID, current challenges and sought to encourage a more ubiquitous consciousness that would provide ongoing substance to the YSAWID dialogue. This workshop required young women to review the period between 1994 up to 2008; they were to then together envision and plan for the year 2009 taking into consideration what they saw as some of the barriers in overcoming these existing challenges; how they viewed the roles of various stakeholders (including themselves) in addressing their needs; and what recommendations they had for the way forward in this regard.

The young women nominated a new National Steering Committee (NWC) that is representational of the provinces as well as young women from various sectors i.e. agriculture, finance, media etc. This NWC was among other things tasked with the responsibility of formulating policies, providing leadership to provinces and advising on national campaigns for YSAWID.

**Read More:**

YSAWID Strategic Planning Workshop Report 2008

## **DECEMBER 2008 SOCIETY WOMEN**

## **MEETING WITH ZIMBABWEAN CIVIL**

On December 19 2008, SAWID Chairperson Dr. Brigalia Bam, Deputy Chairperson Mrs. Thoko Mpumlwana and a delegation from SAWID were invited to attend a meeting of Zimbabwean Civil Society Women who had gathered at the invitation of IDASA to discuss issues around the political negotiation taking place in their country. Although both MDC and ZANU PF had been invited, only delegates from MDC were present. Former South African President Thabo Mbeki addressed the women on certain issues around the political negotiation process. Among the demands that women articulated were a call for violence to end in Zimbabwe and immediate action to address cholera which was rife at the time, as well as a call by women from Zimbabwe to honour the commitments made during the power-sharing deal. A declaration to this effect was handed to the Former President for immediate actioning. Dr. Brigalia Bam presented SAWID's dialogue model and the background, vision, mission and objectives; urging the women of Zimbabwe to break the political barriers that prevented them from addressing issues unitedly, and encouraging them to face their challenges of poverty and violence together, as women. SAWID was honoured to present its vision of a common women's agenda at this important civil society event of Zimbabwean women.

## **JANUARY 2009**

## **PARTICIPATION IN TASK TEAMS**

**TO REVIEW THE SOUTH AFRICAN CEDAW REPORT  
TO ENGENDER THE POVERTY ERADICATION FRAMEWORK, AND  
TO PROVIDE A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROPOSED  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY.**

Between January and March 2009, SAWID was tasked by the Ministry in the Presidency to head task teams to review the final version of the South African CEDAW report to the United Nations, and to Engender the Poverty Eradication Framework of government. SAWID also participated in a task team to present a coherent policy framework on the proposed Women's Ministry, giving effect to a decision of the ruling ANC, during its December 2007 Conference in Polokwane, to investigate the possibility of a Women's Ministry to assist in the fight against inequality and feminised poverty.

### **Read More:**

Revised CEDAW Report  
Engendering the Poverty Eradication Framework  
PWMSA Draft Discussion Paper: Policy Framework for a Ministry to  
Advance Women and Gender Equality

FEBRUARY 2009

53rd SESSION OF THE UN CSW IN NEW YORK

From December 10-11th, Ms. Mummy Jafta, SAWID Regional Coordination and Support Manager, and feminist activist and former Director of the OSW, Ms. Susan Nkomo, attended the FEMNET Civil Society planning meeting for Africa, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in order to enhance African women's participation during the 53rd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW). The objectives of the meeting were to follow up on the Beijing Plus Ten review process by improving strategic advocacy at the international level; to debrief members on previous participation in CSW meetings; to share updates; to discuss the themes in-depth; to develop a joint work plan for the preparatory group, and to assign roles and responsibilities for the tasks agreed upon leading to the 2009 CSW in New York. An African Women's Caucus programme was agreed upon, and some of the key messages to be promoted included the following: recognition of women's unpaid labour, a culture of shared responsibility, leadership as a right and responsibility, and "less convention, more action." It was also decided to use the acronym AIDS to stand for "Africa Inspires Development Solutions."

A delegation of four from SAWID attended the actual 53rd session of the UN CSW, the priority theme of which was **The Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS**, with an emerging issue of **The gender perspectives on the financial crisis**. The Review Theme was the **Equal participation of women and men in decision making processes at all levels**; adopted at the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW. **Beijing Plus 15** was introduced as a new theme.

It was emphasised that the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men is an integral component of the establishment of relationships rooted in justice and underlie the well-being and development of individuals, families, communities and countries. Sharing responsibility need not mean a mathematically equal division of tasks. Instead, it means men and women need to negotiate to ensure that tasks are divided fairly and with respect. It means that everyone's needs are met, both the needs they have in common and the needs that are different.

An important conclusion from the event was that fundamental transformation is needed in human values, attitudes and behaviours to effect changes in the dynamics of human interaction. Of great concern was the fact that the majority of the issues appear to be dependent upon

government for solution which means that if government does not feel compelled to consult with society the same piecemeal approach will be reinforced, once again failing to achieve sustainable and holistic solutions.

The emphasis by SAWID's Development Caravan on Family Intervention was once again confirmed by this year's theme, namely that the collective endeavour by individuals, families and societies can create a new social order. Joblessness and lack of educational opportunities for women, the proliferation of child headed households, the isolation of the poor and elderly and the persistent violence against women and girls have caused a disintegration of the family structure and created vulnerability of individuals and families. It was therefore strongly suggested that there is a need to intervene at the family level.

Ms. Vuyo Mahlati, Chair of the SAWID Development Commission, presented a discussion paper on the Financial Crisis and Gender at this 53rd session of the UN CSW, where she pointed out the gender imbalances, not only in income inequalities, but also in decision making structures both locally and globally. She urged for a change in the global economic order and its financial architecture, "away from this parasitic frame to a symbiotic and synergistic frame that looks beyond profit for a few to embracing diverse socio-cultural factors for the sustainability of our universe."

**Read More:**

Report on the 53rd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 2009

**MARCH 2009**

**SAWID INDABA STRATEGY WORKSHOP**

The SAWID Indaba was successfully hosted at the Kopanong Conference Centre with 90% attendance from the invited guests, including Board and National Steering committee members, Commission members, leadership from the provinces and Friends of SAWID.

The Objectives of the 2009 SAWID Indaba were to create alignments between different levels of SAWID regarding the vision, mission, values, objectives and programme priorities of SAWID, to maximize individual and collective energy through healing, to present and review the 2009 SAWID Secretariat operational plan, to co-plan for 2009 and strengthen the role of commissions in programme development and implementation, and to plan and prepare for the 2009 Annual Dialogue.

The expected outcomes were a common understanding of the vision, mission, objectives and programme priorities between members of the

IsiGodlo Trust , the Secretariat, Commissions and Provinces, and a finalized theme and sub-themes for the 2009 Annual dialogue.

In the report-backs from Provinces, it became clear that all provinces were deeply affected by recent changes in political leadership, the removal of Premiers, and uncertainty regarding incoming officials and political appointees. Another gap was the fact that not all the programmes, especially the Peace Programme and Older Persons, are down-stepped to every province, so that people in those fields can be co-opted to help localise recommendations and implementable programmes in those fields.

It was agreed that a Position Paper needs to be written to analyse SAWID's continuing role and relevance, and to reposition SAWID, changing the branding, marketing and messaging, (especially through mass media like television and radio) and entering into direct communication with key stakeholders and Provincial Principals and Supporters.

#### **Read More:**

SAWID Indaba Concept Paper  
SAWID Indaba Report

#### **IBSA WOMEN'S FORUM 2009 PLANNING PREPARATIONS**

On April 17 an IBSA planning meeting was held to prepare for South's Africa's contribution to the planned action plan of the Women's Forum for 2009, in Brazil in October 2009. SAWID, IDT, OSW and the Dept, of Foreign Affairs were in attendance. The participants agreed to revise and update the Draft Concept Document on An Inclusive Macro-Economic Framework, prepare presentations in a standardised format, and send Academic contributions to Brazil for the publication of a book on Gender and Macro-Economics as an outcome of the July 2008 seminar on this topic held in Brazil. A letter was sent to Brazil to inform them of these intentions. Participants also agreed to combine gender indicators with the terms of reference for the 13 IBSA sectoral working groups, starting by looking at a set of CEDAW-related indicators developed by the Department of Justice for each department in government.

It was agreed that the IBSA Women's Forum must lead in terms of integrated planning and creating alignment between the Gender Focal point persons in government departments that represent sectoral working groups and the IBSA people in those departments, especially in terms of developing gender indicators.

## **SAWID APRIL 2009 OBSERVER MISSION SOUTH AFRICAN ELECTIONS**

SAWID actively participated in the observer mission during the April 2009 South African elections, in order to strengthen the democratic process and enhance the credibility and integrity of elections. Of the 156 registered political parties, 40 contested the elections, with some 23,181,997 voters registered to vote.

The SAWID observers noted that the elections were free of violence and intimidation, and that the voting was conducted in a peaceful, orderly and transparent manner. They came to the conclusion that the outcome of the election was free and fair and a true reflection of the will of the voters, and that the Sawidians in their capacity as observers, party agents and voting staff contributed to the democratization and transparency of the IEC voting process.

SAWID made the following recommendations to the IEC after participating as election observers:

The observers should be provided with an opportunity of growing and developing further in future, e.g., as presiding officers or in other capacities within IEC in order to contribute to their personal growth.

There should be a careful selection of venues as voting stations in future in order to avoid manipulation of voters by landlords.

IEC should retain their voting staff in a database so that whenever there is a shortage of voting staff, they will be able to access the previous trained voting staff as this will minimize errors during the voting process .

The size of ballot papers should be reduced so that they could be folded with ease. The way the ballot papers were folded contributed to the ballot boxes getting full fast. Alternatively ballot boxes should be enlarged in future.

The IEC to look at best practices in terms of counting equipment, in order to minimize counting hours.

In order for voting staff not to be exhausted, the IEC should hire extra staff for counting purposes only.

## **JULY 2009 SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SUDANESE WOMEN IN POLITICS**

Under the theme, *Democracy and Election, Election process and Electoral Law in Sudan*, the Government of Southern Sudan, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, extended an invitation to SAWID to attend the Second National Conference of Sudanese Women in Politics in Juba from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2009. Not all the members of the

SAWID delegation who attended the first Conference on Sudanese women in Politics were available, so Parliamentarians Ms. Vytjie Mentor (MP/ANC) and Ms Rose Gudluza MPL/ID) joined the delegation. As South Africa is considered as a main mediator and peace broker between the South and the North as well as a capacity and institution building partner for Sudan, the presence of SAWID at the conference was well received.

The aims of the conference was to empower women in politics and other non-political formations to enhance their knowledge in issues pertaining to elections, voter education, campaigning, electoral act, etc, in order that they may confidently vie for positions as candidates on party lists as well as at constituency level, in addition to the prescribed 25% women lists.

Women from different political parties, NGOs and religious formations attended. SPLM women from GOSS (the ruling party in Southern Sudan) states other than Central Equatoria had been told by their principals not to participate, but to remain until the end. The reason for the non-participation was cited as non-involvement in the planning of the conference.

Presentations were held in English, with the availability of Arabic interpretation services, on the following topics: basic concepts of democracy, governance And elections, voter registration, candidacy qualifications and requirements, and electoral processes, amongst others.

Despite the non-attendance by women of the ruling party, the conference was considered a success and a stepping stone for the empowerment of Sudanese women in politics. SAWID was urged to continue with its unwavering support of its Sudanese sisters.

## **SAWID JULY TO NOVEMBER 2009 THE REPOSITIONING OF SAWID**

Based on the feedback from the SAWID Indaba in March 2009, a provincial repositioning process was commenced in July 2009 to explore solutions to several constraints and challenges that had been highlighted during the years of SAWID's existence, including the role of the secretariat, the issue of fundraising, especially at provincial level, implementation and accountability, membership and volunteerism, inclusivity and non-partisanship, the role of commissions, the role of provincial coordinators and governance. A position paper was written to analyze SAWID's continuing role and relevance, and to explore a futuristic perspective that would define SAWID post its fifth Anniversary trajectory. The roll-out targeted the Extended SAWID Steering Committee, and women in all nine provinces.

After extensive consultations and various provincial dialogues, the repositioning process culminated in deliberations during the 2009 Annual Dialogue where women reached a consensus on the need to strengthen women's capacity for nation-building and global engagement through a Repositioned SAWID.

### **Summary of proceedings**

It emerged clearly that SAWID is about development, social cohesion and solidarity, as was evident in our solidarity with women in Burundi, DRC and the Sudan. It is for development, for peace and values. Overall women were happy with the current value system and areas of emphasis.

Regarding membership, there was general agreement, but the issue of fees was contentious. The issue of the responsibilities of members also needed to be clarified.

There was general concern about and commitment to the issue of financial sustainability and the need to also look into income generation to help women start-up projects.

Fundraising was reflected upon and discussed but no consensus was reached. It was agreed that more information was necessary and to this end it was suggested that someone be commissioned to identify best approaches and practices.

### **The following issues were identified and/or agreed upon in terms of structure:**

There should be a distinction between agenda setting, programming and governance at local, district, regional, provincial and national levels;

A three year term of office was agreed upon;

The value of inclusivity was honoured.- At least two provincial representatives to be appointed from district to province and national;

Functionality - It was proposed that the IsiGodlo Trust's function be limited to fundraising and the proposed National Council to be responsible for strategy. The National Council's term of office should be three years.

### **SAWID AUGUST 2009 NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE: WOMEN AND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE**

In preparation for the Annual Dialogue Theme of 2009, **The Global Financial Crisis: The National Recession, Is It An Opportunity for Poor Women?**,

SAWID organised a National Roundtable in partnership with the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and the Independent Development Trust (IDT) on the 21st of August 2009, during Women's Month, to bring together 150 South African women from diverse backgrounds to reflect on the impact of the Financial Crisis on South African Women. Ms. Vuyo Mahlati and Ms. Liepollo Pheko were the keynote speakers. They urged women to ensure that they are part of the recovery agenda, to ensure that stimulus packages not only focus on sectors that overwhelmingly employ men, and to strengthen women's networks, access to gendered information and research.

Participants noted that their existing survival strategies in times of economic crisis could be strengthened and multiplied by access to micro-finance, bank loans and other funds, a budget for skills development, capacitation and access to bursaries, gender sensitive budgets at every level of government, including local government, professionalisation of early childhood education and enhancement of food security through support for rural agriculture and food gardens, among other recommendations.

**Key Recommendations from the Roundtable were as follows:**

Ensure that women are a part of the recovery agenda: Past experiences have shown that policy responses to financial crises have disproportionately disadvantaged women. It is critical to recognize gender equality as a fundamental human right and an issue of social justice is essential for economic growth, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and development effectiveness. Stimulus packages should ensure that spending is gender-equitable in job creation and does not only focus on physical infrastructure projects and other sectors that overwhelmingly employ men over women.

Strengthening women's relationships

Information and Research: Continuous collaboration that will unpack the knowledge around the issues that affect women.

Maintain and expand gains in gender equality: by continuing to emphasise girls' education and universal access to reproductive healthcare, including family planning. Much progress has also been made to improve women's positions in the household, increase their negotiating power and reduce violence and harmful traditional practices. These gains must be maintained or recovery from the financial crisis will take much longer.

Invest in women's economic empowerment: it pays - both in terms of mitigating current hardships and preventing future ones.

Invest in health and social services: Allocating funding for social infrastructure investment in areas such as public health, education, child care, and other social services, has two benefits. First, it generates jobs for women since women are heavily represented in those occupations. Second, directing funding to activities that help women with their family life - e.g., child care services, contraception, and school feeding programmes - can soften some of the negative effects of the crisis for entire families. The suggested expenditures on the social infrastructure, aside from cushioning women and children, have the added effect of contributing to long-term health of the economy by raising productivity.

### **SAWID SUDAN ROUNDTABLE SEPTEMBER 2009**

SAWID Co-hosted a RSA/Sudan Women's Roundtable with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation and the Centre for African Studies of UNISA, on the theme, RSA/Sudan Women Partnering for Peace and Development, on September 21, 2009, International Peace Day.

#### **The objectives of the Roundtable were:**

To provide feedback from the Second National Conference of Sudanese Women in Politics held in Juba in July 2009 to various peace stakeholders, including UNISA, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the SANDF, the Institute for Security Studies, Accord and others,

To allow coordination of South African efforts to assist in election preparations and peace processes in the Sudan, as well as preparation for the Referendum 2011, and

To allow South African infrastructure, business and other partners the opportunity to discuss contributions to the post-violence reconstruction phase in the Sudan

#### **The following Plan of Action emerged during the Roundtable:**

1. To improve collaboration between women and women's organizations and ensure sister to sister collaboration.
2. To improve women's participation in spite of the low levels of literacy as women are power houses
3. To build on the Business Women's Association experience of going to Zimbabwe and holding conversations about economic development in Sudan.

4. To train women in business development: SAWID/BWA (A women's delegation must look at all business transactions, and undertake trade missions to Sudan.)
5. To undertake cleansing ceremonies for the blood spilled in Sudan.
6. To initiate door to door campaigning to overcome infrastructure problems.
7. To address health issues by encouraging capacity building to promote health projects for women and children (Dept of Health).
8. Do not only empower women alone, but empower the men as well! Include them in the dialogue so that you can have lasting change/
9. Churches can play a major role (also have access to funding from other churches)
10. Role of women in customary marriages
11. Ensure that widows play a major role in reconstruction
12. Share best practice from civil society: lobbying women's organizations
13. Demarcation of land.
14. Role of traditional leaders: SAWID should talk to Houses of Traditional Leaders to take up the issue of Sudan

**SAWID/PWMSA/DIRCO NIGERIAN 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION WOMEN'S FORUM OCTOBER 2009**

On the 27th of October 2009, SAWID and the Progressive Women's Movement of SA (PWMSA) co-hosted a dialogue platform with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) to mark the 10th Anniversary of the South Africa / Nigeria Bi-National Commission. One of the many activities planned around the 10th year Anniversary Celebrations was a women's forum designed to provide a platform for South African and Nigerian women to consult and share experiences. The theme of the forum was the Gendered Impact of the Global Economic Crisis, and the objectives of the dialogue were to create a civil society forum for sharing of common interests, to strengthen the women's movement in Africa, to share best practices on sustainable livelihoods and to encourage public investment in areas like agriculture and mining. Ms Vuyo Mahlati and Ms. Liepollo Lebohang Pheko were the keynote speakers from South Africa on this theme. A Nigerian perspective was provided by Mrs. Rabi Musa Abdullahi, who noted the establishment in 2003 of a Micro Finance Bank exclusively for women in Nigeria. Various recommendations were made to empower women to play a more active role in the Bi National Commission, and to ensure a financial support mechanism to support the Bi National

processes and agreements. The importance of people-to-people contact was underscored, and the scope of the MOU was unpacked, identifying the main areas of cooperation in health, agriculture, education and rural development. It was pointed out that the MOU should include skills acquisition as well as business exchange visits, and that increased involvement at the community level and partnerships with grassroots women should be considered by parliamentarians.

**Read More:**

Gendered Impact of the Global Economic Crisis Summative Report

**SAWID NOVEMBER 2009 NAMIBIAN ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION**

SAWID participated in the SADC Observer Mission for the General Elections that took place in the Republic of Namibia between the 27th and 28th of November 2009.

**SAWID NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009 SAWID ANNUAL DIALOGUE THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS, THE NATIONAL RECESSION: IS IT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR POOR WOMEN?**

The overriding objective of SAWID 2009, hosted at the Birchwood Conference Centre

in Boksburg from the 29th of November to the 2nd of December 2009, was to re-examine women's survival strategies and indigenous knowledge wisdoms in times of economic stress and to debate concrete proposals for playing a role in the economic recovery of the country, and building sustainable livelihoods, encouraging public investment in areas of work that have wide reach, like agriculture for food security, supporting small enterprises which are labour intensive, and strengthening women's artisanal skills in order for them to participate in the infrastructure roll-out response of our government.

The dialogue built on extensive input throughout the year by women from the provinces, and experts in academia, business and the public sector. The main themes that occupied women's attention during the year were the critical emerging issue of the Global Financial Crisis and its effect on the lives of women; the repositioning of SAWID for relevance and sustainability, and the coordination of the existing women's structures and formations in South Africa into a coherent women's movement to belabour a transformative agenda for nation building and global engagement. SAWID Chairperson Dr. Brigalia Bam provided the welcoming address and Political Analyst Ms. Liepollo Pheko delivered the keynote address on the theme of the conference. She highlighted the gender specific challenges posed by the global financial crisis, and outlined some of the effects of the crisis on women, in terms of the decreased welfare of poor households, decreased

school enrollment, and decreased employment and small business activity. In conclusion she noted that women had a window of opportunity to empower themselves and to ensure that stimulus packages are gender equitable. She cautioned women to ensure that investments are made in women's economic empowerment, and in health and social services.

Ms. Josephilda Nhlapo-Hlope from the Preidential Joint Working Group delivered an address entitled South Africa's response to the Economic Crisis, and shared the five key elements of the framework agreed upon by the working group. Other speakers included ANC MP Ms. Vytjie Mentor, then Hon. Deputy Minister of Correctional Services Ms. Hlengiwe Mkhize and Dr. Frene Ginwala. Advocate Nomazotsho Memani delivered an address on behalf of Hon. Ms. Noluthando Mayende-Sibiya, Minister of Women, Children and Persons with Disability.

The second day of the dialogue, World Aids Day, was dedicated to the Repositioning of SAWID. Discussions and report-back from provinces followed a prayer session with candles in remembrance of all those affected and infected by HIV and AIDS. Delegates were grouped according to their provinces to further discuss the repositioning of SAWID under the guidance of facilitators from the provinces.

#### **SAWID JANUARY 2010 VISIT TO UGANDA BY HON. HLENGIWE MKHIZE, MP, CHAIRPERSON OF THE SAWID PAN AFRICAN PEACE COMMISSION, AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

Hon. Ms. Hlengiwe Mkhize visited the Republic of Uganda from the 12th to the 15th of January 2010 on the invitation of the South African High Commission in representation of South Africa during the Handing Over Ceremony of the War Affected Women's Training Centre in Gulu, Northern Uganda. In addition to recommendations regarding Foreign Affairs involvement and continued investment of Corporate Social Responsibility funds by companies like MTN, Stanbic Bank, Game and Eskom, Ms. Mkhize also pointed out the need for SAWID to invite the women of Uganda to a dialogue to facilitate assistance and empowerment of women survivors of war.

#### **Read More:**

Report on the Visit to Uganda: Launch of Training Centre for Women Survivors of the Gulu War, compiled by Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Ms. Hlengiwe Mkhize

## **SAWID JANUARY 2010 MEETING BETWEEN SAWID PEACE COMMISSION AND THE SUDANESE COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S FRIENDSHIP**

A meeting was convened to discuss ways and means of promoting people to people relationships between Sudan and South Africa and the role women can play in this regard.

## **SAWID FEBRUARY 2010 SOLIDARITY VISIT TO MS ARISTIDE REGARDING THE HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE**

On February 4 2010, the SAWID Peace Commission paid a solidarity visit to Ms. Aristide, wife of the Former President of Haiti, to show the oneness which the women of South Africa, as both women and Africans, feel with the people of Haiti after the devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010 which killed more than 200 000 people and disrupted the lives of millions of others. SAWID pledged to galvanise the support of the women of South Africa to contribute to the efforts of the South African government in response to the plight of the Haitian people. Ms. Aristide shared her feelings and experiences, and an open dialogue was facilitated by Ms. Mavivi-Myakayaka Manzini to explore the gender dimensions of the tragedy and to start looking at ways that South African women can contribute to the alleviation of the current tragedy and towards the search for lasting solutions.

## **SAWID MARCH 2010 NOMINATIONS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION and ICASA**

In support of SAWID's mission to support women's participation on issues of national, regional, continental and international importance, SAWID canvassed opinions from the provinces regarding appropriate women to nominate to various national bodies, including the Planning Commission in the Presidency and Councillors for ICASA. Ms Vuyo Mahlati was the only one of SAWID's 16 nominations who made it onto the Planning Commission.

**SAWID is promoted by the Isigodlo Trust.**



**The People of the Isigodlo Trust**

## **2004-2011**

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Ms. Thoko Mpumlwana (Deputy Chair)  
Ms. Wendy Lucas-Bull (Treasurer)  
Dr. Brigalia Bam  
Dr. Thandi Ndlovu  
Ms. Mathabo Kunene  
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Ms. Audrey Coleman  
Dr. Khosi Khumalo  
Ms. Vuyo Mahlali

**\* The name of the Isigodlo Trust was formally changed by a resolution of the Board of Trustees on the 22nd of March 2011 to the SAWID Trust**

### **The People of the SAWID Trust 2012 -**

Ms. Thoko Mpumlwana (Chairperson)  
Dr. Brigalia Bam  
Dr. Vuyo Mahlali  
Ms. Criselda Kananda  
Mr. Bafana Khumalo  
Ms Mpho Letlape  
Ms. Scholastica Kimaryo  
Dr. Sibongile Muthwa

### **Original SAWID National Steering Committee**

Dr. Brigalia Bam (Chairperson)  
Ms. Thoko Mpumlwana  
Dr. Thandi Ndlovu  
Ms. Baby Tyawa  
Ms. Gernia Van Niekerk  
Ms. Mandisa Tsotsi  
Ms. Bibi Suraya Khan  
Ms. Vuyo Mahlali  
Ms. Viwe Qegu