

## **WORKSHOP**

### **LOCAL POWER AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS – GENDER PERSPECTIVES ON DECENTRALIZATION PROCESSES**

**Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

Haus der Evangelischen Kirche  
Clubraum  
Adenauerallee 37  
54113 Bonn

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Promoting decentralisation processes is becoming an increasingly important aspect in the context of development co-operation. It is to lead to more effectiveness, greater participation and better access for the population to government services and therefore strengthen democratic governance in developing countries. Within this context local governance is to be supported also by the Africa-EU Strategy. Given low participation rates for women in political offices and a low level of government accountability vis-à-vis women the question arising is what prospects and risks the transfer of decision-making structures to the local level bears for the realisation of gender justice.

With the Action Plan of Beijing, representatives of 189 countries agreed in 1995 on achieving an equal status for women at all political levels. Fourteen years later, reality is still far away from this goal. Just 18 percent of parliamentarians world-wide are women. Limited co-determination rights also entail social and economic imbalances leading to a situation of poverty for women. At the same time, examples such as that of Rwanda, where 56 percent of the parliamentarians are women, show that there is political scope that can have far-reaching impacts on women's equality provided that it is taken advantage of.

The Workshop will discuss to what extent these and other examples can be applied to local structures and what strategies exist to promote greater participation of women at local level: What opportunities does the transfer of decision-making powers to the local level have regarding the codetermination of women? On the other hand, how can the emergence of new inequalities be avoided at local level? What role do political measures such as the introduction of a fixed proportion of women play? What contribution can the Africa-EU Strategy make in this context? And what role can civil society and non-governmental organisations play?

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## PROGRAMME

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- 10:00**      **Welcome and Introduction**  
Prof. Dr. h.c. Christa Randzio-Plath, VENRO Vice-Chairperson, Germany
- 10:30**      **Decentralisation and local governance in the context of the Africa-EU Strategy**  
Representative of the European Commission (tbc)
- 11:00**      **Perspectives from the North**  
Uta Kletzing, European Academy for Women in Politics and Business, Germany
- 11:30**      **Perspectives from the South**  
Tilder Kumichii, Gender Empowerment and Development, Cameroon  
Dr. Miria Matembe, Center for Women in Governance, Uganda  
Graça Samo, Forum Mulher, Mozambique (tbc)
- 13:00**      **Lunch**
- 14:00**      **Discussion**
- 15:15**      **Coffee Break**
- 15:30**      **Lessons learnt – How does gender sensitive decentralization look like?**
- 16:45**      **Conclusion**  
Prof. Dr. h.c.Christa Randzio-Plath, VENRO Vice-Chairperson, Germany

**Facilitator: Birgit Dederichs-Bain, Welthungerhilfe, Germany**



The workshop will be held in English.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact:

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**\*\*\* MEETING REPLY FORM \*\*\***

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*To register for the Workshop, please complete this registration form and return  
until 20th of November 2009*

*by fax: +49 30 28046672 or by email to [m.bilinski@venro.org](mailto:m.bilinski@venro.org)*

Name : .....

Organisation : .....

Function : .....

Address : .....

E-mail : .....

Tel & fax : .....

**Working language will be English.**