

## **Devaki Jain's remarks at the closing session in Rabat On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

I would like to thank Winnie and the UNDP gender team again for the extraordinary platform and the organization and support they have given for carrying forward the Casablanca Dream purpose.

The fact that Winnie, a person from the younger generation and an old friend from the South, has taken over the responsibility of carrying this through takes a big load of my head. I was searching for exactly that kind of shoulder, I thank you Winnie.

As I listened in the last 3 days, a couple of ideas for how we move forward appeared to me. I know that there is a book that is to be prepared and the authors have given some wonderful inputs. However, even for the book we would need to have some focus on what are the platforms, some of the key ideas that we would like to work around, therefore, with your permission, I would like to layout my first thoughts on this and request for some feedback from each of you.

1. **First**, taking note of this shift worldwide in the source of GDP which is moving from the first to the third sector, we can call attention to how this threatens freedom from hunger and the protection of the environment. In other words, calling attention to agricultural development, public investment into it showing how critical it is for everyone but with special reference to women; Showing data that the women are the major small farmers that women worldwide tend to produce food crops. Women being in small farms without having land rights are often doing this in great stress and yet putting them on the top of the priorities for attention, organization attention, credit attention, marketing attention and also encouraging that kind of farming would produce many valuable outcomes. Women are also known to be into organic farming more than others and this could also add to the interest in supporting agriculture development with special reference to small farms and food production. Invest in agriculture and in a way that strengthens women and helps in enhancing food security.
  
2. **Second therefore reconstruct how growth is fuelled** - This would fit into our new paradigm on changing the engines of growth. Further, are the engines of growth where they are now located corporates, unqualified trade, and competitive production the cause of so much inequality etc? It is here that we need to enlarge the phenomena of the very rapidly increasing, very stark inequalities that that the earlier engine has generated and through drawing attention to inequality ask for other forms of generating growth. It is here that the bubbling up theory of growth that is putting livelihood and wage earning in large scale which in turn would generate the demand for production which in turn could be the engine but it would be more a democratic engine. Rethink the concept of justice and link it with various inequalities. Unpack and repack concepts used to describe development.

3. **The third is of course environment; packing in water etc. second critical issue**  
I think still is water. Again we link water to climate change but we also link water to various types of infrastructure development – big dams, industrial use, pollution, and most of all global warming which threatens to melt the glaciers and flood several countries. The kind of development that is now in fashion.
4. The **fourth** would be to enter into the discussion on regulatory mechanisms. The word regulation as a response to liberalism and intense marketism is returning in the language of most of those who wield power amongst economists. We need to take a good look at this in term, of what we think other regulatory mechanisms that would be valuable and which would not be. Looking at the issue of Regulation – interrogate these – questions of Who regulates and for whom I would even like to add here that this is where we need to bring in the importance of **deconcentration** of the source of the GDP of the market and the location of the power of the financial market. **Decentralization** is slightly different from deconcentration. Today, the trend is to concentrate production and the trade in the large, in the corporate, banking systems all are in large and with sharp focal points. We could argue for dispersed production, dispersed financial services, greater strength to regional and sub-regional networks, banks which would have viability and which would have the capacity to manage even if there is a break down in the New York stock exchange.
5. **Fifth**, - One more important idea has come from changing the terminology when Fatema mentioned that instead of using the word ‘poor’, we use the word disempowered. Redefining poverty as deprivation – water deprivation, food deprivation. Vocabulary has been a difficult issue amongst feminists as vocabulary includes hierarchies and various types of implications. Therefore, that would come under the subject of reconstituting the indicators of progress. The narcissism of consumerism - Consumerism has been flagged as a major threat to environment and to the ethics of building a humane society. How we look at consumerism and markets would also be important. Hiroko has pointed to the disjunction - an important model on how a country which has achieved the objective of being one of 7 of the richest countries has such extraordinary pressures on women and we saw totally ‘unmodern’ disjunctions, to use for analysis - We need to shift our interests in spaces from where we have been working namely the UN to the various regional configurations. This is where the world is now realigning itself.
6. **Sixth** indicators of progress. Many people have talked of moving away from NASDAQ and only looking at stock market prices. What the other indicators are of progress that we would like to see? There is the human development index, but could we go beyond that? The overall objective would be to reconstitute economic reasoning, economic development strategies using our scholarship and our experience of politics. Alternative Measures of Progress - There is a conference on this and that Sanjay Reddy is leading – it was thought we may be/can feed into

this, but I found it mainly about poverty , we want to do something bigger like the HDI < but new ??

7. **Seventh** going into new spaces - for example IBSA, the feeling is we have enough money now and they have set up Poverty fund. This is a political statement. We need to look at issues of South-south cooperation – South-south migration. The way wages are being pushed lower and the need for legal protection against this. We need to change the Inter Ministerial NAM women papers – rewrite NAM conference, not just BPFA and MDGs North-South relationship (for example the double standards are reflected in the fact that when there was a financial meltdown in the West, there was a rush by Western Governments to intervene and to rescue banks which is contradictory to the advice given to Third World countries when we had a financial crisis. They have been advised to sell our banks at a price lower than its actual value.
8. **Eighth** rearticulate the women's movement create new negotiating instruments, derived from knowledge, reasoning with the other on policy, need a well argued theory, which chalks out the alternative out of a good discussion on the above.