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PRESS RELEASE

The National Commission for Women organized an Interaction and Consultation Meeting on the “Issues of Achievements and Challenges In Promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment After Beijing + 10” on Thursday 7th, April, 2005 in New Delhi. The purpose of organizing this meeting was to initiate a discussion with Women Activists, NGOs and Government Officials to prepare for the ensuing NAM Conference. Representatives of NGOs i.e. Joint Women Programme, Centre for Social Research, Women Power Connect, YWCA, Mahila Dakshta Samiti, All India Women’s Conference etc. participated in this meeting.

In her inaugural remarks, Dr. Girija Vyas, Chairperson, National Commission for Women said that a close and frequent dialogue between NGOs and Commission should be conducted. She emphasized that India should take the lead in all international forums on various issues encompassing women’s equality and empowerment. She stressed upon proper and timely implementation of existing Government Policies by Central and State Governments.

Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Member NCW said that we should decide on the core issues that we need to consider. A minimum workable agenda may be worked out before going to the international meetings, so as to thrash out the recommendations which are viable, practicable and situation specific. During the discussion the following suggestions emerged:-

- ◆ Most of the participants appreciated the role of advocacy and initiatives taken by the National Commission for Women on such issues.

- ◇ They appealed the Commission to create a task force to discuss and cull out issues which may be raised during the international Conferences viz., NAM, Afro-Asian Summit, UN Conference etc.
- ◇ They appealed to the National Commission for Women to conduct State level studies to review the implementation of Government policies.
- ◇ Most of the participants raised the following issues:-
 - 33% reservation for women in the legislature.
 - Women role in public offices and policies.
 - Violence against women.
 - Girl Child rights and
 - Economic Empowerment of women including the right to ownership of land.

[Romi Sharma]