

## REPORT FOR THE ICW-CIF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 4-7 April 2008, Jakarta, Indonesia

Name of the National Council: **Deutscher Frauenring e.V. (Germany)**

1. The triennial theme of the ICW-CIF in 2006-2009 is “The Challenge of Achieving Gender Equality”. How have you implemented this theme in your actions since the General Assembly in Kiev?

### **Activities 2006-2008 / Federal level**

The DFR board organized seminars on different subjects aiming at achieving gender equality in Germany. In October 2006, a seminar on “**A Living Democracy: Women take on responsibility**” was organized in Freiburg which debated the conditions of women’s equal participation in changing society.

In June 2007, a seminar on “**Citizens Engagement in Women’s Projects**” was organized in Waren, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. A multitude of projects, all organized by local DFR members, were presented. They focused on three subjects: migration and integration, inter-generational dialogue and the future of the youth.

The DFR board organized a seminar on “**Migration-Integration-Participation**” in Berlin in October 2007 inviting 80 members to debate the situation of female immigrants in Germany, the effects of new German legislation concerning migration, the economic aspects of migration and migration as a global phenomenon. High level experts such as Rita Süßmuth and Barbara John as well as politicians and migrants addressed the seminar.

The DFR is currently planning other activities on migration. We cooperate with other organizations in Germany, especially with Muslim women’s organizations in order to promote contact with immigrating women and to increase networking. The objective is to find new ways for a better integration of migrants. We are organizing a symposium with other partner organizations on “**We – women in Germany**” in Cologne in June 2008 to progress in this field. The DFR is responsible for the organisation of a workshop on the job market integration of both migrant and non - migrant women in Germany.

Seminars and conferences on **equal opportunities**, within the scope of the year of equal opportunities for women in Bad Homburg, Hanover, etc.

### **Statements and cooperations**

Deutscher Frauenring published a **statement to the G8 Heads of State meeting** in Heiligendamm, Germany, asking the German Chancellor Ms. Angela Merkel, G8 president in 2007, and the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ms. Heidemarie Wiese-Zeul, to commit themselves to promoting partnerships with African countries and to taking care that the Millenniums’ targets are met. For a long time, Deutscher Frauenring has been involved in women’s development projects in West Africa. Both, Ms. Angela Merkel and Ms. Heidemarie Wiese-Zeul reacted to our requests in writing. A press release summarizing our statement was sent to the national press.

The DFR lobbies for equal pay for women and men and supports the first Equal Pay Day organized by the Business and Professional Women e.V. in Germany.

The DFR calls for an effective reconciliation policy as an important factor for raising the share of women in the labour market. In January 2007, a new income replacement scheme (*Elterngeld*) was instated, replacing two thirds of previous earnings after childbirth for the period of one year. This supersedes the present income replacement scheme (*Erziehungsgeld*), which provides flat benefits for up to two years after childbirth subject to an earnings ceiling. The new *Elterngeld* represents a change in the paradigm of German family policy as it recognizes that mothers are “employed” persons who need an income replacement during the period of child care. But there is still a lack of child care facilities which is a major problem in Germany that is not yet solved.

2. Please give a brief survey of future ideas and plans for the work of your Council.

The DFR board is organizing a seminar on “Justice through the Generations and Social Change” in November 2008 focussing on the needs and interests of young women.

The board is planning to concentrate on problems of women’s job integration, career policy and reconciliation policy and to take the ideas of young women into account.

The DFR board has a leading role in the German NGO shadow reporting to the CEDAW Committee.

3. Please provide           the number of your member organisations: 3  
                                  the number of individual members: 6.500  
                                  the number of branches: -  
                                  the total number of women represented by your organization: 15.000

Report submitted by: Dr. Elisabeth Botsch, Head of DFR Office, Berlin