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About this Report

This report reviews the progress of AWID’s 2012 International Forum on Women’s Rights in Development. AWID is grateful to have been granted $125,022 CAD in funding for the project: Women and Transitions to Democracy in the Arab Region. This support was instrumental to ensure strong engagement of women from the MENA region both at the Forum and at the pre-Forum meeting: Women’s Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash.

The feedback received from participants so far has been overwhelmingly positive. We are very pleased with the results achieved and are proud to have organized another successful international women's rights forum. AWID has learned that investigating and understanding the impact that an event such as the Forum can have is both a complex and ongoing process. This report is thus an initial assessment of what we believe to be key achievements, learnings and challenges that have taken place as a result of the Forum. This report is a culmination of different levels of feedback we have collected including via the post-Forum online questionnaire that went out to all forum participants in different languages, through unsolicited feedback we have received, through debrief conversations AWID has had with key actors and constituencies, blogs and reflections about the forum shared by participants, as well as a result of debriefing discussions by the International Planning Committee and AWID staff.

In the course of 2013, AWID will continue to monitor the extent to which the Istanbul Forum had a significant longer-term impact on participating individuals and/or organizations, and consider how this can inform our work going forward. We look forward to continuing this conversation about the impact of the Forum with you.
SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION
AND OVERVIEW
Context

Unlike some previous Forums, the AWID 2012 International Forum's (Forum) theme was chosen not based on a burning issue within the movement at large, but on the suggestion of some of our allies and members, including at the conclusion of the 2008 AWID Forum on “The Power of Movements.” They felt that the global systemic crisis, particularly the financial crisis and economic recession that hit the world in 2008, had exposed the lack of broad feminist engagement with issues of economic power, and the absence of strong responses by women’s movements around the world. There was a sense that while some women’s organizations at the grassroots level were tackling the impacts of the global crisis and the radical changes in economic policy and financial architecture on poor women, these were often addressing consequences and symptoms, rather than root causes. Similarly, there were a few longstanding feminist initiatives to build a gendered analysis of trade, international finance and economic policy, and to engage global actors, but these were often also disconnected from the efforts of women’s movements on the ground. There was also an impression that women’s movements had moved into either NGO-ized ways of operating, or focused on issue-based work on violence, legal rights, livelihoods, health, reproductive health and sexuality that failed to link these to the economic forces that were shaping them in hidden or even invisible ways.

A focus on economic power, and on how women’s movements could help transform it to advance women’s rights and justice, thus emerged as the clear focus of the Forum, but it had to be conceived and planned somewhat differently from previous ones. Given the incredible complexity of the global economic architecture, and the unprecedented power gained by actors like multinational corporations and narco-traffickers in controlling economic policy, and the shrinking role and autonomy of sovereign states in determining economic development priorities, the Forum had to play a strongly pedagogic role, as well as a strategic one. Participants would have to learn the basics of the global economic paradigm and how it works, as well as how to retool their strategies at both grassroots and policy levels.

Another challenge was the dramatic events of the so-called Arab Spring, and the huge implications of what was occurring in the MENA region for women and their rights in the months that followed. The Forum had to create a meaningful space for women’s rights activists and advocates from this region to gather, analyze, make linkages with the economic factors behind the upsurge of religious fundamentalist parties and ideologies across the region, and consider how best to protect and advance women’s rights amidst the sweeping political changes. For women’s groups in Turkey, the Forum had to create a similar opportunity to take stock of the state of their movements, and consider how to use the historic opportunity provided by the Forum’s location in their country to revisit their priorities, rearticulate their agenda, and rebuild their alliances to become a strong and unified voice.
Overview

The year 2012 marks AWID’s 30th Anniversary—a legacy that we drew from to design and organize our Forum in Istanbul, Turkey from April 19 to 22, 2012. The Forum has consistently been recognized as a flagship activity of AWID, and throughout our 30 years we have sought to continuously improve the strategic nature and focus of Forum debates and their level of inclusivity of diverse actors and agendas.

Building on this history some of the defining aspects of the 2012 AWID Forum are:

- This was **AWID’s largest Forum to date**, bringing together 2,239 women’s rights activists, from 140 countries and six continents.
- AWID boldly tackled a difficult theme within a complex global context. The theme of *Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women’s Rights and Justice* aimed to address the fact that the global systemic crisis made critically urgent stronger feminist engagement with issues of economic power, and exploration of possible responses and alternatives from a women’s rights perspective. While there were concerns that this theme might be alienating, or unappealing for large swaths of women’s rights activists, AWID worked hard with numerous partners in the lead-up to the Forum to make the connections between economic power and “traditional” women’s rights issues, and we encouraged women’s organizations and allies to step outside their comfort zones. The feedback received has resoundingly affirmed the strategic relevance and value of the Forum theme.
- **The location and timing of the Forum** had been determined well before the Arab Spring, largely in response to AWID’s desire to facilitate stronger connections and solidarity between international women’s rights movements and those from the MENA and Eastern European, Caucasus, Central Asian regions. However, we also had a serious commitment to **making the Forum responsive** to the global context. That the Forum took place just over a year after those dramatic events unfolded in the MENA region, with significant implications for women and their human rights, we felt there was a critical need to use the Forum to foster solidarity with women from the region, and to build an analysis of the implications of these events for the women’s rights agenda at the global level. This was reflected both in a related pre-meeting that AWID co-organized with several partner organizations, sessions that were added to the Forum agenda on implications of regional events, and selection of plenary speakers.
- A key innovation for this Forum is that it was conceived as **a process, not a one-off event**. The significance of that shift in framing meant that during the two years leading up to the Forum, AWID invested significantly in targeted outreach and relationship-building, linking with actors doing related work; producing, commissioning or making available existing information to inform debates on economic power; and providing access to basic economic education resources for activists new to some of these debates. It also meant conceiving spaces at the Forum that could be used by groups engaged in ongoing advocacy agendas, for example many of those linked to the key **international processes that are underway** including the revision of global development cooperation and aid architecture, Rio+20 and the forthcoming +20s for Cairo, Vienna, Beijing (including a possible 5th World Conference on Women). We intended the Forum to be used as a space for women to share information and strategize together on how best to bring their experiences, voices, and proposals to the table as these processes advance. We will continue to build on the **Forum as a process** in our ongoing follow-up work and processing of Forum insights to inform AWID’s strategic planning for 2013-2018.
- This Forum incorporated several methodological innovations and new program components, through which we aimed to facilitate participant learning on the central theme of economic power; as well as to provide distinct spaces in the program where participants could go more in-depth, responding to past feedback that Forum sessions only allow for scratching the surface or were focused only on experience-sharing. These innovations are discussed in detail in the section below on the Forum program.

- Incorporating another lesson from past experience, AWID worked hard to expand our outreach and deepen relationships with women’s rights groups in Turkey. This took the shape of in-person meetings during a series of trips made by AWID staff in the lead-up to the Forum, strong presence of activists from Turkey on the International Planning Committee, production of a regular information bulletin in Turkish that was widely distributed on various e-lists used by activists in the country, and allocation of 200 free registrations for local activists. In our conversations with women’s rights advocates in Turkey, they discussed the value they saw in the Forum for helping them move beyond a sense of isolation or self-reference, to connect more deeply with international women’s movements and feel part of them, broadening their view of issues, strategies and solidarity.

Who Participated in the Forum?

Considering the theme, AWID was particularly committed to reaching out to diverse groups in advance of the Forum (refer to Appendix 1) and encourage their engagement, both by submitting session proposals and registering to participate. We wanted to attract groups organizing around economic rights and justice, who perhaps lack a clear focus on women’s rights, but could find common cause with Forum participants and who could enrich the analysis. Similarly, to illustrate the multiple interconnections between issues of economic power and women’s rights, we actively sought participation from key sectors relevant to the theme that are not “usual” attendants of people that attend Forum: groups working on the environment and climate justice, labor rights activists including domestic workers and women working in trade unions, migrant women, rural and peasant women, and others.

Further, we maintained our longstanding commitment to facilitate participation of groups that are often not included in gatherings of more mainstream women’s movements. Sex workers, indigenous women, women with disabilities and young women were priority constituencies that AWID has sought to effectively engage throughout the course of our current strategic plan and we continued strong outreach to these groups for the Forum in 2012. These groups were not only present in strong numbers, but also made meaningful contributions as part of the planning committee, plenaries, specialized areas, and by leading breakout sessions at the Forum. The successful inclusion of these constituencies is reflected throughout the positive feedback received from many of them, which we have highlighted in this report.

We also continued a strong commitment to facilitate regional diversity at the Forum (see Appendix 1A for a regional breakdown), with the majority of participants coming from the Global South. AWID worked with local activists from the Caribbean and Pacific regions for collective resource mobilization that could facilitate travel grants from these often under-represented regions. We also saw increased participation by women from otherwise isolated regions where women’s groups have lower access and fewer links with the larger global movement—such as the Middle East and North Africa, Pacific, Caucasus, Central Asia, CIS, and Central and Eastern Europe—29% of our total participants came from these regions.
AWID also facilitates inclusion very concretely by financing the participation of key actors in the Forum who might not otherwise be able to participate. This involves considerable fundraising and the implementation of an Access Fund to cover travel expenses, and make arrangements for hundreds of Forum session presenters and participants. AWID engaged in extensive outreach efforts and we mobilized $561,961.00 USD for our Access Fund, awarding travel support to 350 women’s rights activists from 104 countries. Activists that were supported came from groups working on food rights, sustainable livelihoods, climate change and the environment, labour rights and unions, indigenous peoples rights, grassroots coalitions, sex worker rights, immigrant women’s organizations, home-based workers, HIV and AIDS home-based care providers, young women, women with disabilities, and other civil society organizations focused on trade justice and debt cancellation, among others. (see Appendix 1B for a detailed analysis of Forum participants and who received Access Funding.)

Analysis of registration data also shows that the vast majority of participants, 73%, were attending the Forum for the first time, and AWID takes pride in this data. Although we recognize that the Forum has become an important site for building and sustaining relationships and solidarity across feminists and women’s rights movements and issue-based activism, we would not like the Forum to become a space that is attended mostly by “the usual suspects”.

With the Forum, in addition to in-person participants, AWID worked to expand our reach to a virtual audience. Despite resource constraints and the high cost of technical facilities at the venue (particularly live internet broadcasting), we were able to incorporate significant changes to the Forum, taking steps to create increased virtual accessibility. The daily plenary sessions were audio-streamed live over the internet by the Feminist International Radio Endeavour (FIRE) in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Turkish. Photos, videos and audio content from the Forum in English, Spanish and French were posted to the Forum website every day providing an overview of the different discussions and debates taking place. In addition, this was also the first Forum where AWID used social media to facilitate engagement with live tweeting from the plenaries in English, Spanish and French using the Forum hashtag #awid and daily content posting to our Facebook page which saw an increase to 21,308 people as its weekly total reach (an increase of over 16% from the previous week).

General Feedback on the Forum

Later sections of this report examine the extent to which the Forum advanced specific desired outcomes. Here we recap general participant reactions on the utility and effectiveness of the Forum. Feedback collected through the online Forum evaluation survey, through unsolicited emails, and in debrief conversations with numerous participants confirms that the AWID Forum continues to be a rare and valued space by feminists and women’s rights movements around the world. Results from the evaluation survey tell us that 93% of the 552 respondents who answered the question “Reflecting on the 2012 AWID Forum and your expectations overall, how satisfied are you with the experience?” said they were either very satisfied (60%) or somewhat satisfied (33%). Similarly, the vast majority of respondents felt that the Forum is a vital convening space for feminists and women’s movements (95%), that they would recommend the Forum to others (93%) and that attending the Forum was worthwhile (91%).

The most often cited gains from the Forum appear to be strong evidence that key goals of the Forum were achieved, drawn from analyzing the data from Figure 1, “in which of the following ways do you think your work will benefit from attending the Forum.” viz., the connections made between expanding their knowledge of issues related to transforming economic power for women’s rights and justice (61%); new ideas for actions to transform economic power to
advance women’s rights and justice (53%), new relationships with people and organizations from sectors that they do not commonly engage or work with (53%). The next significant groups of insights present a far more disparate set of gains, but are important indicators of the way the Forum’s impacts on participants straddle learning and sensitization to new issues and constituencies, articulating and passing on the movement’s history, potential shifts in action strategies, and the building of new relationships and reaffirming old ones.

**Figure 1: How my work will benefit from the Forum**

- Strengthened relationships with people or organizations that I already knew; 72%
- Greater solidarity for the issues or struggle I focus on; 62%
- Expanded knowledge of issues related to transforming economic power for women’s rights and justice; 61%
- New relationships with people and/or organizations from sectors that I usually engage or work with; 58%
- New ideas for actions to transform economic power to advance women’s rights and justice; 53%
- New relationships with people and/or organizations from sectors that I do not commonly engage or work with; 53%
- Concrete collaborations for joint action on issues relating to my work/activism; 45%
- New or deeper insights about Feminist Resource Mobilization; 43%
- Methodologies, materials or practices for Economic Education; 35%
- A better understanding of the role of wellness and self-care in my work/activism; 34%
- Connections with new donors; 25%
COMPOSITION AND ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE
The Forum’s International Planning Committee (IPC) plays a vital role in conceptualizing the Forum, forging the program, and supporting with outreach to diverse constituencies. The IPC for this Forum played a particularly active and important role. The IPC was made up of 36 renowned women’s rights and feminist thinkers and leaders from 25 countries, representing a wide range of communities, regions and sectors. It included a vital mix of feminist economists and academics as well as activists and popular educators. As part of AWID’s commitment to ensuring a meaningful presence and participation of women’s rights activists from Turkey at the Forum, the IPC included 4 members in Turkey, representing distinct voices from all over the country. The complete list of IPC members is included as Appendix 2.

The IPC worked closely with the AWID staff to shape the Forum and in addition to developing the theme, conducting major outreach into their communities and networks, contributing inputs for plenary sessions and other major pieces of the Forum program. The IPC also had the difficult job of making an initial selection of 100 sessions from among the 800 submissions received in four languages from 98 countries.

IPC members based in Turkey also carried out a separate process of session selection for the proposals submitted by groups there, as well as participating in a review process to allocate the 200 free Forum registrations to participants based in Turkey. Most importantly, the group provided strong feminist leadership, communication support and political guidance throughout the preparatory process and on site. Key areas where this was felt the most include navigating a complex political landscape, dealing with state security and police forces onsite and in the surrounding area, a very challenging visa process (complicated by the post-Arab spring context and particularly by the increasingly tense relations between Turkey and Syria), and ensuring a flawless and secure Solidarity March could take place on the final day of the Forum.

Feedback received from IPC members in response to a short evaluation attested to the value and role of this committee, and how the interactions by committee members also contributed to advancing the goals of the Forum:

It’s been a tremendous learning experience being part of the IPC. In terms of learning about other areas of work, getting to know individuals who do incredible work for potential future collaboration or support, as well as what a huge and difficult enterprise it is to organise the Forum in terms of its scale and aims. It also presented the space to reflect strategically around connections and movement building within the women’s movement and the diversity of positions, politics and priorities. The Forum is very much an agenda-setting place, and it’s a valuable opportunity to be part of the process at different levels, as IPC, participant and partner. —Jac SM Kee, Women’s Rights Advocacy Coordinator, Association of Progressive Communications, Malaysia.

The Planning Meeting in Istanbul in 2011 was perhaps the best, most productive and enjoyable meeting I have ever participated in. I ended up feeling we’d accomplished a lot in a short time and also had a great time together. —Rosalind Pollack Petchesky, Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

Personally I am delighted to have been part of the preparatory process leading to 2012 AWID Forum. Working with you was an unforgettable experience for me and I believe that we experienced a wonderful example of feminist solidarity together. —Zelal Ayman, Women for Women’s Human Rights-New Ways, Turkey.
SECTION 3

PROGRAM OF EVENTS
AT THE AWID FORUM
To address multiple realities and learning needs, and building on lessons from past Forums, AWID went to great lengths to create an innovative program to facilitate participant engagement with the theme of transforming economic power to advance women’s rights and justice. Over the course of four exciting days AWID carried out a complex program that featured ten interconnected thematic areas and fulfilled its commitment to provide an inclusive and accessible space. For the first time, AWID provided simultaneous interpretation in seven languages at the daily plenaries and across breakout sessions (English French, Spanish, Arabic, Turkish, Kurdish, and Russian). Below we provide both a general description of key dimensions of the Forum program and highlights of the feedback received from participants on each.

Plenaries, Breakouts and In-depth Sessions

**Plenaries:** These daily two-hour sessions provided the deep systemic and structural analysis around many complex and interconnected issues related to the theme of transforming economic power to advance women’s rights and justice. Unpacking the different facets of economic power, plenary speakers presented analysis and different experiences of resistance, organizing and movement building to frame the Forum theme, suggesting alternative models and paradigms with which participants could transform economic power. These sessions were streamed live by audio webcast which allowed us to disseminate the Forum broadly to a diverse audience.

**Breakout Sessions:** A hallmark of AWID Forums, 170 breakout sessions took place, reflecting a balance of thematic, regional, and sectoral diversity. In addition, caucuses, solidarity roundtables and other presentations were offered at lunch, which allowed more organic processes of networking, learning, strategizing and building solidarity to take place outside the structured sessions.

**Feminist Economics Toolbox (skills-building sessions block):** For the first time, AWID reached out to resource-people to organize an entire block of parallel Feminist Economics Toolbox sessions where participants could learn the basics that would enable them to get more out of other sessions and debates. In planning these sessions, AWID worked with some of the leading feminist and women’s rights thinkers and practitioners on economics and development. This block of sessions took place right after the Opening Plenary on Day 1 to ensure that as many participants as possible would attend at least one skills-building session during the whole Forum.

**In-depth Sessions:** In response to feedback from past Forums that past breakout sessions only allowed time for experience and information sharing, AWID designed in-depth sessions. These seven thematic sessions (six hours each, spread over two days) provided an opportunity for participants to go in-depth on key relevant issues and in many cases to engage across regions and sectors. Most of these sessions were the result of strong collaborations with both older and new partners, who in many cases took the lead in fully organizing the in-depth session.

**Specialized Areas**

The Forum program also included an expanded array of specialized areas to explore the theme through different formats in dynamic and flexible spaces. These areas were developed and planned in close collaboration with key allies from women’s rights movements.
**Economic Education Area:** This new area included a room for breakout sessions (loosely linked to economic education initiatives) as well as open spaces for Forum participants to come together, share experiences, tools, and methodologies and engage in strategic conversations about the role of economic education in the transformation of economic power. The area included a resource table where participants could access materials from groups specializing in economic education, displays, and short video presentations. Its flexible meeting space was used by grassroots women from Turkey (and elsewhere) particularly for debriefing in the morning and evenings. This space was one of considerable learning for participants both in terms of content of economics, and process for economic education. One participant said:

> I would like to thank you for your great initiative and organizing the economic education space at the AWID Forum. KARAT appreciated a lot the opportunity to participate in the sessions, learn from others' knowledge, approaches, cases and share its regional experience with the economic literacy program. —Kinga Lohmann, Poland.

**Feminist Information, Communications, and Technology (ICT) Hub:** The ICT Hub was a space for communicators to gather and produce content on the Forum and share resources and ideas to build the capacity of women's right’s advocates to use ICTs. There were eight selected breakout sessions that were part of this Hub and all were well attended—underscoring the interest and need for these discussions that covered topics including the power and politics of information; using new technologies and social networking tools for empowerment and transformation and using film, visual and artistic expression and information design in advocacy and activism. This relevance of the topic was affirmed in an interview AWID conducted with Erika Smith of the Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) when she said,

> Without a doubt information and communication technologies (ICTs) are changing the way we carry out our activism – in our neighborhoods or globally—and women’s rights activists are in the thick of it. After the Forum, a fair amount of the coverage and content produced is related to ICTs

Within the ICT Hub, The Feminist International Radio Endeavour (FIRE) set up their FIREplace, where they conducted interviews daily, in Spanish, English, and French with Forum participants. Activists from 17 countries were interviewed on a wide range of topics related to the Forum theme and streamed live through the FIRE radio broadcast. An informal space was also provided for participants to access and share resources and examples of the successful use of ICTs to advance women's rights. Partners conducted skills sharing on issues including—video for advocacy, using social media in advocacy campaigns, digital security, visualising evidence for advocacy around women's rights, open API's for beginners, editing and animation intro, basic photo editing and using ICTs and PulseWire to achieve empowerment and community leadership.

**Resource Mobilization Hub:** Another *first* at this Forum was the Resource Mobilization Hub, that offered an interactive and dynamic environment for discussions and learning on resource mobilization, funding trends, and fundraising for women's rights and gender equality. It was such a hive of activity that some participants dubbed it "The Forum within the Forum". In fact, 70% of Forum online evaluation respondents attended the Hub, 90% of whom found it useful. Survey results also revealed that when all participants were asked how

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1 Examples of content coverage on ICTs that came out post Forum includes Social Media for Social Change, Liberation Inc.—more reflections from the Avid Forum, Women's advocacy campaigns less effective when feminist? Some notes on ESCRIBANA and its creative way to harness the power-politics of communications.
their work will benefit from their attendance at the Forum, 43% of them said they gained new or deeper insights about Feminist Resource Mobilization. Colombia-based participant Eleanor Douglas from the Urgent Action Fund Latin America’s described some of these positive aspects of the Hub when she said:

“I learned a great deal at the Resource Mobilization Hub, where I spent considerable time, confirming some precepts about the state of the international funding world and being inspired about looking for new ways of approaching resource mobilization to support the work of women.”

In addition to a space for related break-out sessions, the hub included a networking area and various other side activities, offering funders and women’s rights organizations chances to meet informally and in structured dialogues. From sign-up sheets alone we know that over 20 funders with 354 participants met formally during the “donor office hours” meetings at the Forum. Women’s groups appreciated the access and relatively tension-free discussions, and donors felt less marginalized and separate from women’s movements, and not being put on the spot. Katrin Wilde, Executive Director of the US-based Channel Foundation, articulated this positive atmosphere by saying:

“...you really made an effort and succeeded in making it about resource mobilization beyond money and beyond an “us versus them” dynamic. The way the space was framed and conversations were led created mutually respectful space.”

There were also significant advances made at this Forum relative to past Forum in terms of the number and diversity of donors who came to the Forum. We successfully broadened the range of donor sectors attending the Forum with a record 359 people (16% of all attendees) identifying as funders, representing bi and multilateral agencies, private foundations, INGOs, women’s funds, corporate donors and individual philanthropists.

- **Young Feminists Corner:** The Young Feminists Corner (YFC) was developed as part of AWID’s Young Feminist Activism (YFA) Program overall strategy to support the integration and participation of young feminists at the Forum. The YFC was designed as a community space by and for young feminists but open to all Forum participants for informal convening, discussions, peer-to-peer learning, networking and outreach. The YFC was part of our broader strategy for young women’s participation and engagement with the Forum. Please note that more detailed information about this area is provided in Outcome Cluster 4 of this report.

- **AWID Membership Area:** This was a strategic point of convergence where Forum delegates had a chance to connect and learn more about AWID. We are delighted that 119 new institutional and individual members registered at the Forum. In addition to the area, there was an AWID Membership Meeting scheduled during a lunch break to introduce new members to AWID. The meeting was so popular (in the evaluation survey nearly three-fourths of those who attended it gave it a high “useful” rating) that it had to be repeated a second time.

- **Wellness and Self-Care Area:** The Wellness Area at the Forum was both a space where participants could recuperate, reinvigorate and calm their minds during the Forum, and a space to engage in conversations about different tools and approaches for self-care, safety and security, in addition to encouraging on-going self-care and wellness practices. The Wellness Area received high endorsement from participants, with 76% of those surveyed who said they visited the area, finding it “very useful”. Based on the feedback received, we achieved our first goal of creating special space to focus on self-care, healing and
relaxation, and revitalize many activists. Many women especially from the South took part in activities such as yoga, tai chi, massage, self-defense, and music therapy for the first time, and expressed their need for support in preventing and treating illness related to stress and burn-out. As one participant stated: “[To] take time to take care of myself is very revolutionary.”

The second goal around the political importance of working for the well-being, security, and self-care of women’s rights activists was also met. As described in the joint concept note for the wellness area on Safety, Self-Care, and Security in order “to transform economic power in favor of women’s rights, we need to bring global attention to the high importance and value of women’s contribution to the care, development and well-being of others in the world. We need to raise our voice and design practices and strategies that enable the [re]distribution of care between men and women, at the community and societal levels and with the responsibility on the States. So far, self-care, security and well-being have not yet received the adequate attention as keys to the sustainability of women’s activism and leadership, as well as of the women’s movement”. Many women after either participating in one of the breakout sessions or after reading the concept note shared with us how their view on self-care and wellness was completely different, and wanted to learn more about this and engage with activities that promote collective sustainability for the women’s movement. We were struck by a few of the comments in the breakout sessions in particular:

- If we talk about risk, WHRDs would only admit to risk if they had received death threats. That is how high the threshold was, nothing else was considered a risk
- Talking about integrated security means asking how you stay safe and well.
- I’ve gone to a lot of workshops and trainings for work on women’s rights; the integrated security training [at the Forum] was the first time that I went to a training for me.

Most importantly, as shown by the information provided in Figure 2, close to 90% found all components listed below as being useful, the majority finding them very useful. Less than 10% found all of these areas not useful.
Cultural and Artistic Activities

The Forum also featured a wide range of activities designed not just to feed the mind, but also to inspire and re-energize the spirit. We included poetry and music in the main plenaries and worked with feminist artists to include installations, graffiti and other artistic expressions in the Forum venue. Some key moments throughout the Forum program are highlighted below:

- **Visual Installation by Turkish Artist**: Turkish artist, Ece Polen Budak, created a visual installation called *Nazar Değmesin* (May the Evil Eye Not Touch Her) to wish women’s rights advocates well in their struggles. The installation consisted of a life-size tree welded from recycled scrap metal, adorned with ornaments featuring Turkish evil eyes, traditional Yemeni cloth used by women in Turkey and coins from around the world—to symbolize women’s economic agency. All participants could thus leave the Forum with a well wish ornament and a memory of the collective commitment for change. Ece the artist poignantly described her vision for *Nazar Değmesin* when she said:

  *I want women attending the Forum to recollect this gathering and the promise they made to enact change. Just as the tree was bare and then came full to bloom—so shall we.*
• **Graffiti:** In addition, graffiti artists and women’s rights advocates—Pamela Castro from Brazil and Shady Khalil from Egypt—painted on site, demonstrating the universal power of color, images and symbols to transmit key political messages in creative ways.

• **WHRD Tribute:** Given the need to give greater visibility to the rising violence against women’s human rights defenders around the globe, and to honour the thousands of women who are no more but lived their lives fighting for women’s rights, for the first time, the AWID Forum program had **A Tribute to Feminist Activists and Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) Who Are No Longer With Us.** This multi-media, music and art presentation developed in partnership with **Breakthrough Collaborative** commemorated and celebrated the lives, work and passion of feminist activists who are no longer with us since we last gathered at the 2008 Forum. This event recognized 90 feminist and women’s rights activists from 38 countries who have broken social norms and cultural taboos to speak out in inspiring campaigns, some of whom were killed or disappeared because of their work in defense of women’s human rights and gender equality. The event tried to provide a space for community and movement building, a space to do collective mourning of the precious lives of women’s activists from around the world and to raise awareness about the increasing violence against WHRDs. As one participant expressed:

  “The tribute to these women, compañeras who now are on our memory even if they are no longer with us, connects with our humanity, makes us come together, makes us feel pain, but also encourage us as women defenders”.

• **Artistic Installation on WHRDs Who are No Longer with Us:** In order to collectively commemorate and celebrate the lives of feminist activists and WHRDs, AWID invited AWID members and broader feminists and women’s rights movements on International Women’s Day to share photos and short biographies of those women who have passed away since the 2008 Forum. The result was an inspiring series of 90 stylized mobiles from all over the world, designed by Turkish artist Ece Budak, which hung in one of the main areas of the Forum. The vision of this interactive installation was to create a three-dimensional path that allowed the assemblage of Forum participants to be literally surrounded by the photos and bios of these incredible activists and WHRD as they walked through the path of mobiles. It honoured women like Marisela Escobedo Ortiz from Mexico, who was killed while peacefully demonstrating to demand that authorities take action to arrest her daughter’s assassin; South African organizer and LGBTI activist Noxolo Nowaza, murdered as a result of a hate crime; Natalia Estemirova, a journalist murdered for her work on human rights abuses in Chechnya; Rhonda Copelon, a key international feminist thinker and lawyer who died of cancer a couple of years ago; and human rights lawyer Concepcion Brizuela from the Philippines, who was forcibly disappeared for advocating on behalf of women, peasant farmers, and indigenous peoples. This dynamic and interactive installation allowed participants to remember and celebrate the legacy, passion and commitment of these WHRDs and feminist activists who are no longer with us.

• **AWID’s 30th Anniversary Party:** The historic Binbirdirek Cistern in Istanbul was the location for the traditional Forum party, this year also a commemoration of our 30th Anniversary. At the event some key women in the history of AWID were honoured and celebrated, including founding members, former Board members, and former Executive Director Joanna Kerr. We had short speeches, singers, circus-like performers, and mostly lots of music, dancing, and celebration.
Other Spaces for Learning and Exchange

Given the size of the Forum and the fact that such opportunities for coming together are so rare, we aim to make use of all available spaces. In addition to the activities already mentioned, the Forum schedule of activities included book launches and receptions, an on-going exhibit hall and bazaar for organizations to share (and sell) their wares and resources, and a campaigns corner for different groups to publicize current campaigns and requests for solidarity.

In addition, AWID made special arrangements with two key constituencies—francophones and sex workers—who had participated in previous Forums and requested at this Forum a dedicated space to be able to gather and share information about their work. As a result, there was a vibrant space featuring artwork and other materials produced by the Asia-Pacific Network of Sex Workers, which also served as a meeting point for sex workers from different regions present at the Forum and a space to give visibility to this important constituency. Similarly, the Francophone Village was welcomed by French-speaking participants as a gathering place to meet, network, exchange and debate on topics linked to specific contexts and issues. This space was appreciated as one of learning and networking, connecting and celebration of francophone women’s rights activism.

Safety and Security at the Forum

In addition to the “Making the Forum as Safe Space” strategy, AWID invested significant efforts to develop a comprehensive contingency plan should difficult situations arise to ensure effective logistics, mitigate potential threats to security, and enable a safe space for lively debate and engagement. This strategy was shared with AWID Board, IPC and staff, and outlined specific responsibilities. In a world with increasing conflicts and repression, the issue of security when doing such a large civil society becomes central, given the involvement of participants who are at the forefront on human rights and justice struggles on the ground.

Given the Turkish and regional context of increased repression, AWID relied heavily on our IPC members and feminist lawyers from Turkey, who along with our legal counsel advised us on our plans and responses to Turkish police, intelligence officers and security issues onsite and also in the planning for the Solidarity March organized to support our sisters from Turkey. AWID composed two Rapid Response teams of IPC, Board, and AWID staff that were ready to act should a conflict arise that is of such significance that it threatens to disrupt the flow of the Forum, impact a sizeable number of participants, and/or put any participant at physical, political or other kind of risk. One was a more general response team to mediate conflict, while the other was dedicated solely to addressing any conflict that could potentially arise among participants from Turkey in relation to three sensitive issues: the struggles and place of the Kurdish population the country; the Armenian genocide: April 24th is marked in Armenian history as the Day of the Genocide; and increasingly tense Syrian-Turkish relations. We also highlighted sessions where we expected that political conflict could arise and made sure our Executive Director and Board President were both in attendance.
SECTION 4

EVALUATING AND DOCUMENTING THE AWID FORUM
AWID is committed to ensuring that the Forum is an effective event and that every Forum is better than the last. For our Forum in Istanbul we developed an evaluation strategy that built on the strengths and learnings from the Cape Town Forum in 2008. Our Forum Evaluation methodology is in line with our broader organizational M&E Framework and Strategy, which is adapted from the “Outcome Mapping Approach (OM).” Through the Forum AWID set out to advance the following 10 outcomes:

1. Concrete proposals on rights-based sustainable alternative feminist development visions and practices are put forward and shared among participants.
2. Bridges are built between different thematic areas, actors and movements.
3. Greater understanding and stronger conceptual connections are drawn regarding the role and impact of macroeconomics and development paradigms in diverse women’s rights agendas, experiences and issues.
4. Greater understanding built on the impact of the global systemic crisis on women and impact of the responses to the crisis on women.
5. Interest and engagement with economic development debates and policies at different levels is renewed and invigorated among feminists and women’s rights activists.
6. Open spaces are created for participants to share their lessons and wisdoms and engage in concrete joint actions after the Forum through transnational women’s rights advocacy initiatives.
7. Participants come away from the Forum with not only a more profound understanding of issues, but with enhanced learning and practical tools, resources and skills to challenge the failings of current development models and neoliberal globalization.
8. Young women are visible and actively engaged in key debates and strategies linked to alternative feminist development visions, contributing to more effective multi-generational movement-building.
9. Feminists, women’s organizations, social actors and movements participating in the Forum are ‘revitalized’, with a renewed sense of commitment and energy, inspiration, as well as new ways of thinking and acting.
10. Women’s rights activists in Turkey have stronger connections with other activists and movements from around the world and can draw support and strength from these connections.

The evaluation methodology for the Forum was broken down into the following three phases. The activities listed below contributed to the advancement of our Forum outcomes to different extents:

A. Pre-Forum Evaluation Work

- Finalised conceptual framework for the Forum theme and call for proposals.
- Call for proposals process and session selection.
- Call for registration from activists in Turkey, evaluation and decisions made.

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2 Outcome Mapping recognizes that the promotion of social justice is essentially about changing how people relate to each other and their environment. OM is a shift away from more conventional approaches to evaluation that assume a causal relationship between an intervention and significant and lasting changes in the well being and lives of intended beneficiaries. Outcome Mapping on the other hand believes that such “impacts” are the result of a confluence of actors and circumstances for which no single organization can claim full credit.
• Website launched and resource tools made available.
• Prepared strategic information and knowledge resources on the road to the Forum (on website, and distributed by email).
• Constituency outreach and targeted relationship building with key actors and diverse constituencies.
• Access Fund Coordination.
• Two full IPC Meetings and two smaller IPC meetings.
• Developed, translated, and prepared the post-Forum online survey questionnaire.
• Devised Seed Grants process/proposal.
• Mechanisms for onsite data collection developed included counting outcome-related sessions, appointing rapporteurs for key sessions, blogging, and a tracking team to pick up major themes, debates, currents and undercurrents.

B. Documenting the Forum – On Site

The aims of documenting the Forum were to contribute to:

• Facilitating engagement by women’s rights advocates (not attending the Forum) with the discussions and debates taking place at the Forum and beyond
• Fulfilling our accountability to funders and our broader constituency by reporting on the highlights and impact of the Forum
• Enhancing our knowledge base for strategic planning within AWID

To advance these goals, there were diverse forms of documenting of the Forum that took place as follows:

• Daily content production by AWID including live tweeting from the plenaries, a plenary roundup, photo slideshow and vox pops with participants sharing reflections on learnings from the Forum.
• FIRE live audio streaming of all plenaries and live radio interviews at the FIREplace with Forum participants in all languages.
• Content community of women’s rights advocates and organizations reporting on the Forum with multimedia content aggregated through the Forum website.
• Forum participants/citizen journalism content production including tweeting, blogging, posting to Facebook, creating and sharing video on YouTube, sharing photos on flickr/etc using the Forum hashtag #awidForum.
• Photographers captured images of the Forum.
• International mainstream media journalists covered the Forum including Thompson Reuters.
• Turkish mainstream media journalists coverage of the Forum.
• Alternative and feminist media journalists/bloggers covered the Forum including open Democracy article series.
• Independent film and documentary makers, including shooting for AWID’s 30th anniversary film.
• Identification of relevant articles for production in the SID Development journal.
• AWID staff took notes in key sessions.
• “Trackers” team collected content to feed into the final plenary presentation.
• Audio recording of key sessions.

C. Post Forum Evaluation Work

1-6 months after the Forum
• Six weeks after the Forum an online evaluation questionnaire was disseminated in five languages, to which we received a staggering number of responses – close to 600, or nearly one-third of total Forum participants. ³
• Debrief meetings with AWID staff, Board and International Planning Committee members to assess and reflect on achievements and areas for improvement.
• Targeted interviews with key actors who attended the Forum representing diverse constituencies.
• Evaluating young women’s engagement at the Forum by processing the evaluation results from onsite written evaluations of the YFA day, and a follow up email questionnaire sent to YFA participants a month after the Forum.
• A call for Seed Grant Proposals: AWID will be disseminating a “Call for Proposals” to all Forum participants interested in applying for a 5,000.00 USD “Innovation Seed Grant”. Seed Grants are a tradition dating back to the 2002 Guadalajara Forum, aiming to support participants to turn creative ideas generated at the Forum into action.
• AWID Forum website redevelopment to transform the site into a resource hub on the Forum theme(s), which will facilitate learning by priority audiences.

7-15 months after the Forum
• Additional targeted interviews with key actors and allies.
• Follow-up survey to participants one year after the Forum.
• Accompaniment of seed grant recipients and support for evaluation of seed grant projects.

This report covers the available evaluation data reflecting on the quality of the Forum itself and short-term outcomes. For the quotes provided in the section below, we have attempted to identify the individual and country. This is not always possible due to the fact that evaluation survey respondents were given the option to remain anonymous. In the course of 2012 and into 2013, AWID will continue to monitor the extent to which the Istanbul Forum had a significant longer-term impact on participating individuals and/or organizations. The results of this deeper inquiry will be available in 2013.

³ Normally, a return rate of 10% is considered high for such surveys.
SECTION 5

HOW WELL DID THE AWID FORUM ADVANCE OUR DESIRED OUTCOMES?
To facilitate the reporting and avoid repetition of data, we have clustered related outcomes into five groups, as described below, and discuss the relevant findings for each cluster.

**OUTCOME CLUSTER 1:**
Enabling women’s rights activists and advocates to gain a stronger understanding around economic issues.

**Three desired Forum outcomes fall into this cluster:**
- Greater understanding and stronger conceptual connections are drawn regarding the role and impact of macroeconomics and development paradigms in diverse women’s rights agendas, experiences and issues.
- Greater understanding built on the impact of the global systemic crisis on women and impact of the responses to the crisis on women.
- Participants come away from the Forum with not only a more profound understanding of issues, but with enhanced learning and practical tools, resources and skills to challenge the failings of current development models and neoliberal globalization.

Several different questions in the evaluation survey attempted to determine whether such learning and greater understanding was indeed experienced by participants. Responses to two key related questions are presented in Figure 3, below. Here we see that the overwhelming majority of survey respondents—more than 80%—felt that they gained new insights about strategies for organizing women to transform economic power to advance women’s rights and justice, and better understanding of how economic policies and agendas are connected to their work. Of those 9% that disagreed with these statements and shared comments, some were related to methodology (i.e. “panels were too dry” or “academic,”) or that there were too many activities and that seemed to limit what they were able to take away. Others, perhaps those who have more access to global spaces, or who attended previous Forums felt that there was “nothing new”, which may have to do with the fact that the *pitch* of Forum content was primarily aimed at those who were not deeply familiar with economic analysis and themes. Thus, participants who have significant experience in this area may have felt that their knowledge of these issues did not dramatically change.

Interestingly, when we analyze the evaluation data *per region*, the lowest number of participants to strongly agree with these former statements come from North America and Western Europe (17% each,) while 45% of respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa and 40% from Latin America “strongly agreed” that they had gained new insights about strategies for organizing women to transform economic power. With regard to a better understanding of how economic policies and agendas connect to their work, significantly higher majorities from Sub-Saharan Africa (98%), Latin America (89%), MENA (84%) and South and Southeast Asia (84%) agreed or strongly agreed than those from North America (70%) and Western Europe (72%).
Further survey results showed that over half the respondents thought that their work would benefit from the expanded knowledge of issues related to transforming economic power in favour of women (61%), from new ideas for action (53%), and from the methodologies, materials or practices for economic education (35%) that they received at various sessions and “toolbox” spaces at the Forum. Again, there were significant regional differences, to taking away “new ideas for action to transform economic power”, 72% of respondents from Sub-Saharan Africa, 67% from MENA and 58% from the LAC region agreed with that statement, while only 36% from North America and 38% from Western Europe agreed.

Two of the innovations in the Forum program that most directly aimed to increase understanding of economic issues—the Feminist Economic Toolbox sessions and the Economic Education area—were positively assessed as “very useful” (64% and 55% respectively). Thus while we see room for improvement, we are encouraged that these were an effective contribution to the overall program. Participants took away specific learnings in relation to the economic and global systemic crisis which are described below:

**Figure 3: Usefulness of Forum in Learning about Economic Issues**

- **Agree**: 56%
- **Strongly agree**: 23%
- **Disagree**: 10%
- **Not sure**: 7%
- **Strongly disagree**: 1%

**Better understanding of how economic policies and agendas are connected to my work**

**Gained new insights about strategies for organizing women to transform economic power**

These times of economic and systemic crises is an important but challenging moment to strengthen capacity-building on economics and women’s rights. We need to understand the links between local realities and global decision-making. And it is a moment of particular convergence amongst the different topics of feminist economics. —Norma Sanchís, IGTN-LAC.

Even during times of relative social tranquility, women continue to be victims of social and wage discrimination; access-to-land and property discrimination; they are victims of sexual harassment and violence on both the domestic and work environment; they are victims of a glass ceiling to the public sphere and political activity. During times of crisis, this unfair suffering is not just sustained but it is exacerbated. In the Global South, the ecological and food crisis as well as raw material extraction have worse effects on African, Asian and Latin American women. —Boaventura de Souza Santos, Portugal.

Coming to my first AWID Forum, and from economic shock therapy Greece - and having lived in/worked on “adjusting” and “transitioning” countries over the past 30 years… the commonalities we share due to the destructive neoliberal economic system have never been
clearer. Our economic system should, at minimum, be based on respect for the value and needs of us all and our planet. —Lois Woestman, Greece

The assessment of the in-depth sessions is also an important indicator of the learning outcomes of the Forum. The data in Figure 4, below, show that of the close to 80% or more of the survey respondents that attended the various in-depth sessions, the vast majority assessed them as either “very useful” or “somewhat useful”, meaning they gained some concrete knowledge, insights, and ideas for their work. The following highlights some of the appreciations received around the value of the in-depth sessions:

I loved the in-depth sessions, and I really liked the exchange between women from different continents. The decomposition of development and the reaction against victimisation of poor women were strong moments in these sessions. —To Tjoelker, Netherlands Embassy in Mali, Netherlands

The in-depth sessions on militarism, violence & conflict deepened my understanding of the dilemmas facing women in Iran, Lebanon, Turkey and elsewhere, for whom opposition to “fundamentalisms” may be in tension with opposition to imperialist domination and the necessity, for now, of supporting (if critically) groups like Hizbollah. —Rosalind Petchesky, Hunter College & the Graduate Center, City University of NY, United States

The in-depth sessions were a smart move, [because] they helped to bridge the plenaries with issue-specific processes. They provided a space for people that wanted to do that. That was very effective. You were able to develop a momentary community of those that were following the process (in-depth). It looks like that there was a solid core of people following a thematic process. A really positive addition. —Brigid Inder, Executive Director, Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice, New Zealand

Only a small percentage—less than 10%—rated these sessions as not useful, or were unsure of their opinion.
The sampling of evaluation comments below further reflects the Forum’s impact on participants’ understanding and learning around economic rights and issues:

**Women organizers left [the Istanbul conference] with tools to understand the economic environment they struggle in. We left with a greater understanding of the links between us—from region to region, from sector to sector, from woman to woman. And everyone left with a renewed commitment to figure it out, step by step, empowering women in their daily lives toward solutions that respect women’s rights and build new paths toward strong and just communities, a healthy planet, and a happy future for our children. —Laura Carlsen, Mexico.**

[I got a] greater understanding of macroeconomic policies and the needed/basic knowledge for arguing that these policies are not neutral and that they shape the reality that women live in. I also learned about the important role of Central Banks linked to macroeconomic policies. —Sandra Ines Ramos Lopez, Nicaragua

The AWID International Forum contributed to building our knowledge of the situation that million of women, girls and young people live around the world, daily facing situations of vulnerability of their rights, inequality, discrimination, violence and economic policies that don’t allow their development and growth. It allowed us to learn about and discover new tools related to gender, feminism and economic systems that reinforce the cosmovisions of indigenous women. — Forum report shared with AWID by the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas
OUTCOME CLUSTER 2:
Re-energizing participants, especially with regard to their engagement in economic debates.

This cluster includes the following specific outcomes:

- Interest and engagement with economic development debates and policies at different levels is renewed and invigorated among feminists and women’s rights activists.
- Feminists, women’s organizations, social actors and movements participating in the Forum are revitalized, with a renewed sense of commitment and energy, inspiration, as well as new ways of thinking and acting.

One of our goals for every Forum that AWID organizes is to re-energize participants, and this year was no exception. It is hard not to come away feeling revitalized just from the energy of over 2,000 women’s rights advocates together in a plenary hall, or at an evening dance party. Most importantly, AWID was focused on re-energizing women’s engagement on economic issues and agendas.

Forum coverage including blogs, tweets, alternative and mainstream media coverage as well as unsolicited compliments and survey results leave us in no doubt that the Forum left the majority of its participants ‘revitalized’ especially with regard to their engagement in economic debates. It was particularly exciting that close to one third of all Forum coverage online was by websites/that did not identify as having a feminist vision, yet the lens with which they wrote substantive pieces on the Forum was very in line with feminist principals. This suggests that the Forum theme very much resonates with a broader audience. (See Appendix 3 for a detailed list we have compiled to date of external Forum coverage).

An assessment of Forum plenaries provides some supportive evidence towards these outcomes. Between a third to nearly a half of those who rated the plenaries found them either energizing or inspiring. Less than 10% of respondents rated the various plenaries negatively. Upon further analysis we can draw some interesting conclusions from the 10% minority that did not find the plenaries inspiring. Cross referencing the data by region we found that proportionately regions that are exposed and have access to more international spaces such as North America and Western Europe tended not to find the plenaries as inspiring on average (68% and 68%, respectively) vs. Sub Saharan Africa: 48.5% and Latin America and the Caribbean 35.4%. The regional response rate and differences is an important learning that AWID will take into account for the future design of plenaries. Also worth noting is the fact that travel plans prevented a significant number of survey respondents from attending both the Opening Plenary on Day 1 (39%) and the Closing plenary on Day 4 (62%), so it was not that participants did not wish to attend these sessions but rather logistics prevented them from doing so. While AWID does not have control over participant travel plans these realities will inform future planning.

Similarly, the majority of respondents who attended the various special events organized at the Forum—such as the mass march on the last day, the tribute to feminist and women’s rights activists that are no longer with us, etc—either agreed or strongly agreed that they were enriched and inspired by the experience. The tribute to women’s rights defenders who are no longer with us received the most enthusiastic endorsement, with 94% assessing it as an enriching experience, while the March for Defending Women’s Human Rights on the final day (94%), the book, film and other launches (93%), the performances and film evening (87%), and the AWID 30th Anniversary party (81%) also received very positive acknowledgement.
Our tracking of Forum-related tweets, blog posts, and responses to related evaluation questions yielded some powerful responses from participants who were inspired and re-energized by their experience of the Forum. In response to the question of “How will the Forum benefit your work”, 17% of respondents identified feeling empowered, inspired and a renewed energy as a key take-away from the Forum for their work.

**BRIDGE team had an amazing, inspiring and exhausting #awidForum, ending with the march for women’s rights last night. Unforgettable!**  
bridge_ids The BRIDGE Programme

**At morning plenary on Day 3 of #awidForum in Turkey. Inspiring speakers talking about powerful & creative ways of organizing around globe! nobelwomen Nobel Women**

I loved the AWID Forum; told friends it was like going to a four day intensive university camp the plenaries were marvelous, as were most of the in depth/breakout sessions I attended ... you’ve succeeded to attract a high level group of analysts AND activists, and scholar activists who do both ... very energising and exciting ... I feel refreshed and know that all of us TGNP participants [Tanzania Gender Networking Programme] have gained a lot.  
—Marjorie Mbilinyi, Tanzania

They have made all the possible arrangements to ensure women with disabilities; HIV/AIDS have safe spaces. AWID Forums have a general feel about them. They generally include a wellness centre which includes free massages! They strive to make this a space to re-energise and to spark the creativity. I have to be honest, I’ve been feeling rather stagnant lately with ideas but I’m just flowing with new ideas now.  
—Josephine Tsui, United Kingdom

**AWID Forum has made my life better, richer, more positive in every possible way. Being surrounded by more than 2200 women leaders and activists from all around the world has left great impact on me, firstly as on women, than as on activist and advocate for women rights. At the AWID Forum I have met knew friends, made contacts with donors, gained new knowledge and experience that will help to improve my work as an advocate for women’s human rights. I will give the best from myself to transfer all that I have gained. I have truly been enlightened, provoked and inspired by an exceptional group of thoughtful, forward-looking and fiercely committed women.**  
—Selma Badzic, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**OUTCOME CLUSTER 3:**  
To link and connect diverse women’s rights advocates, movements, and allies.

**Two desired Forum outcomes fit in this cluster:**
- Bridges are built between different thematic areas, actors and movements.
- Women’s rights activists in Turkey have stronger connections with other activists and movements from around the world and can draw support and strength from these connections.

AWID goes to great lengths to ensure that the Forum—regardless of the specific theme—is a space that brings together women’s rights advocates and movements that reflect a diversity not just of geography and mode of engagement and contribution to the women’s rights struggles, but of issue and thematic areas. This was an even more critical outcome for the Forum, because these divides had to be tackled much more directly, since one of its key goals was to get movements and women’s rights advocates working on other issues and priorities to
understand why transforming economic power must inform and infuse any women’s rights agenda. This diversity is evident in the profiles on participants, shared in Appendix 1, and here we share feedback on how participants feel they experienced and benefited from this diversity in its multiple forms.

It is also important to note that organizing a Forum inclusive of all this diversity is not without challenges. At the Forum in 2008 there were situations where participants, particularly because of their sexual identity, felt threatened or harassed by other participants. For this Forum, we created a participant’s code of conduct, which was included in the Forum program and referenced in an orientation session during the opening plenary, that tried to encourage participants to take responsibility for and contribute to creating an inclusive safe space for all. In Istanbul there were no reports of harassment of the kind experienced in 2008 and we believe that the code of conduct played a helpful role in that regard—to be explicit in our values and expectations and ask participants to take responsibility for treating each other with respect.

In response to the question “How will the Forum benefit your work?”, 62 % said that they gained greater solidarity for the issues or struggle to focus on, and 86% agreed with the statement that: “I was in contact with people from groups or sectors I don’t generally work with”. Furthermore, in a series of statements about the Forum that respondents were asked to affirm or deny, the statement “I had lots of opportunities to meet and speak with people informally.” was affirmed by 91% of the respondents who rated it, bearing testimony to the numerous possibilities that participants had to engage with each other and meet new people beyond their common circle of influence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure 5: Bridging Different Actors and Movements (N=562)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthened relationships with people or organizations that I already knew;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New relationships with people and/or organizations from sectors that I usually engage or work with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New relationships with people and/or organizations from sectors that I do not commonly engage or...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concrete collaborations for joint action on issues relating to my work/activism</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Regional differences here are also important to consider, as respondents from somewhat more isolated contexts were more likely to come away with new relationships with people or organizations that they do not commonly work with. For example, 75% of respondents from the Caucasus and Central Asia and 69% from the Pacific responded to that question in the affirmative. Of the 45% of respondents who reported having concrete collaborations for joint action on issues related to their work/activism, 57% came from Sub Saharan Africa, 45% from LAC, 35% from North America, and interestingly, South East Asia, Pacific and CEE regions reported that 50% had concrete collaborations! We will be following up with respondents to this
survey questions to be able to identify the concrete collaborations that had traction and follow through after the Forum.

It is also important not to overlook the opportunity that the Forum provides participants from the same region to connect with each other. For example, Caribbean feminist and Coordinator of FRIDA the Young Feminist Fund, Amina Doherty, said:

*The Forum is a point of departure for a new phase of feminist organizing in the region. We came together with the expectation that we hoped to strengthen our own individual networks as well as to build links among us in the region… [As a result of attending the Forum,] we are all looking forward to working together more closely.*

AWID checked in with Amina after the Forum to see the group how the group was doing and how the Forum may have contributed to the *Catch a Fyah* regional convening that took place a month after the Forum in Barbados. She said:

*The Forum was the first time that many of the Caribbean feminist actually met each other…and it created the space to begin some very important discussions in advance of *Catch a Fyah*. *[the Forum] further provided a provided us with a platform to share these issues with donors and allies outside of the region.*

This was significant because of the challenge that women (particularly from the English-speaking Caribbean) feel marginalized in broader regional spaces that tend to be dominated by Latin American sisters. Amina said:

*The Forum was a good opportunity for us to situate more closely to home the issues and struggles we face and form relationships with several organizations (working in Africa, Asia and beyond) that we are keeping in touch with to support our own movement building work going forward.*

We received extensive feedback from *key constituencies* including sex workers, indigenous women, disabled women, grassroots women, labour rights groups and others about their Forum experiences. For example, in advance of the Forum AWID mobilized resources and reached out to key sex worker networks and their allies (such as the members of the Red Umbrella Fund) to plan activities and strategic engagement on site, building on experiences of sex worker participation in past Forums. Kaythi Win, a sex worker and founder of TOP, a national sex workers HIV program in Myanmar, and chairperson of the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) gave a provocative and unprecedented *plenary speech* on Day 3 that will not soon be forgotten. Win framed sex work as work explaining, “when a woman decides to engage in sex work, she is making a decision to empower herself economically.” Win explained that while many assume that sex workers need to be rescued, they are not victims and she refuted the assumption that sex work can be equated with trafficking. In a remarkable moment, Kaythi asked Forum participants for a moment of solidarity, bringing almost all of the plenary attendees to their feet declaring “sex work is work.” Win remarked “nothing for us without us.”

Reflecting on her participation of the plenary, Kaythi told AWID:

*NORMALLY OUR VOICES ARE ABSENT FROM DEBATES ABOUT US, SO IT IS EXCITING TO THINK THAT SEX WORKERS’ PARTICIPATION IN THE AWID FORUM MIGHT HELP TO CHANGE THIS RESTRICTIVE TREND IN THE CURRENT FEMINIST MOVEMENT AND THAT THE VOICES OF SEX WORKERS CAN BE HEARD AND ACKNOWLEDGED.* —Kaythi Win, Myanmar

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4 See concrete outcomes in Section 6: AWID Lernings p.47
Participant feedback as well as media coverage\(^5\) also demonstrated change at the attitudinal level took place which was promising:

> It made me happy to see the sex workers movement accepted back into the broad women’s movement. —Andrew Hunter, Thailand

> This defiant rejection of victimhood by a sex worker, speaking on behalf of the global sex workers’ rights movement, took place at the recent AWID International Forum on Women’s Rights and Development, one of the largest gatherings of women’s rights activists in the world. It was an extraordinary moment because there’s a tendency by some in the women’s movement to reject sex workers like Kaythi because they dispute the monolithic narrative that all people in prostitution seek rescue”. — Chi Mgbako, Reality Check\(^6\)

Since the Forum, AWID has also heard from others who were not as supportive of the visibility of sex workers including those who hold the commonly called “abolitionist” perspective that sex work should not be recognized as work. In spite of diverging perspectives, we believe that the ability for activists, including sex workers, to share their experiences and positions and engage in frank debates with others is a key value of a space such as the Forum. This is particularly true given that sex worker’s voices have commonly been marginalized from feminist spaces. As AWID we are committed to contribute to increased visibility for sex workers, and reaffirm our commitment to supporting the work and struggles against all forms of sexual exploitation of all people, particularly women and children. Although we acknowledge there are strong divisions on the analysis and proposals about prostitution and sex work, we feel much more dialogue and debate is needed to expose some of the taboos and myths that exist, and build greater solidarity among movements in a way that is respectful of differences.

There was similar appreciation from indigenous women participants at the Forum in terms of their visibility and engagement. We were humbled by the very positive feedback received from different indigenous women.

> I am an Indigenous Woman from Australia and was one of three Indigenous women to participate. It was amazing to gain knowledge, understand and appreciation for how women around the world deal with issues. This was my first time out of Australia travelling on my own and participating in an international Forum. I have gain a lot of information and contacts to assist me in pursuing the venues needed to assist my people. —Michelle Watson, Australia

> It has been a number of years since I participated in an AWID event, and in that time I believe that the women’s movement has become much more inclusive. In particular, I noticed that almost every plenary speaker mentioned Indigenous women in one way or another - this is tremendous advancement for us! —Lea MacKenzie, Canada

> There is greater openness on the part of the women’s movement in general to listen to and include indigenous women at the various levels of AWID and the Forum itself…The diverse panels and general program of the Forum included the participation of indigenous women from various parts of the world. —Report on the AWID Forum shared with us by the Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas

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\(^5\) Why the Women’s Rights Movement Must Listen to Sex Workers by Chi Mgbko, [http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/print/19676](http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/print/19676), Dispatches from AWID 2012: A Day in the Life of a Sex Worker by Jessica Mack, April 21st.

After so many years of walking together for women’s rights, we believe that the alliances built and consolidated in the space provided by AWID during the International Forum have prospered thanks to your commitment, and particularly that of the women’s movement. We want to recognize AWID’s work to strengthen a shared agenda for the rights of women from all over the world, inclusive, that integrates the voices of indigenous women. —Otilia Lux de Coti, Executive Director, International Forum of Indigenous Women

Other testimonials that spoke to the usefulness and appreciation of the “bridging” at the Forum include the following:

As member of IPC and on behalf of women with disabilities who attended the AWID Forum in Istanbul, I want to say thank you to IPC, AWID Staff and volunteers for all the efforts that went into the planning of the Forum, specifically to make sure women with disabilities participate effectively in the conference….The level of visibility of women with disabilities at the Forum was high, especially at plenary and at parallel sessions; the level of accessibility was also very high, the support from other participants on disability issues was overwhelming. The different level of assistance received by women with disabilities from volunteers and AWID staff greatly enhanced our participation during the meeting, especially during the street rally. This was remarkable! —Ekaete Umah, CEO of the Family Centered Initiative for Challenged Persons (FACICP), Nigeria.

Participant feedback also spoke to the appreciation for the diverse levels of activism and kinds of organizations present at the Forum. Whether it was about grassroots women being able to use the opportunity to connect with policymakers and donors; or women linked to other social movements that were appreciative of seeing the connections made between their agendas and women’s rights, Forum participants clearly used the space to advance their own priorities in terms of networking and bridging.

The Forum created an opportunity to the grassroots to share our local strategies, advocacy tools we developed and we are using to create impact in our communities with the donors, stakeholders, intergovernmental agencies and fellow women of different calibers…the AWID Forum was vital to grassroots women leaders for it created a platform for our views to be heard by donors, intergovernmental agencies, foundations who are women allies and activists. The Forum also enhanced our ability to organize, lead, advocate and articulate issues affecting women firmly. —Joyce Nangobi, SWID and the Huairou Commission, Uganda

Above all, I was very happy at the emphasis you gave during the opening to the importance of the issue of the ecological crisis and the importance for us to make it a central part of the movement. —Lourdes Inga, The Christensen Fund, USA

AWID was particularly satisfied with the engagement of activists from other social movements at the Forum. We believe this facilitated some key cross-pollination and connections that we will be monitoring in the years to come. For example, to have plenary speaker, Boaventura de Sousa Santos, a convenor of the World Social Forum and a well-known leader of alter globalization movements, writing about the Forum and its core theme gives visibility to concerns around women’s rights work to a swath of activists who may have quite little engagement with women’s movements (but represent constituencies that we ought to work with more).

Other women’s rights advocates representing key sectors closely related to the Forum theme, including domestic workers, organized workers, and feminist economists, were also appreciative of how the Forum inspired their work:
The Forum is a revitalizing space for women human rights defenders. It validated some of my knowledge on feminist economics. It also gave me new insights on macroeconomics and economic initiatives that women are carrying out around the world. — Sandra Ramos, Nicaragua

I came back from the AWID Forum with a sense that there is scope for more/stronger collaboration between those of us working on gender/supply chains from a more labour-activist base with those working on it from a more women’s movement-base or academic base. I don’t have any concrete ideas on how this could be facilitated in practice, maybe it’s a question of trying to bring in each other’s expertise more within the work each of us is already doing, and keeping each other updated on our plans where they are relevant to the others, so that we can collaborate in practice where it adds value. — An organizer of the Labor and Work session

With regard to the connections made between activists in Turkey and other parts of the world, data from the evaluation survey indicate that this outcome was better achieved in one direction than the other. While only 39% of survey respondents from outside Turkey felt that they had been able to form links with women based there, a very encouraging 77% of respondents based in Turkey agreed or strongly agreed that they had connected with other women attending the Forum. As one activist based in Turkey reported:

It is generally very lonely experience in Turkey to care both about women’s issues and care about social justice. I have very few friends who connect the two. It WAS WONDERFUL to see that there are many who see issues in a more holistic manner all over the world. It is great to know we can cooperate on women’s overall empowerment together... — Aysen Candas, Turkey

Although the Forum is by nature an international convening, we take seriously the responsibility that comes with organizing such a large event in a particular national context. We look to IPC members based in the host country to advise us on key issues that they feel are crucial for participants to know or take away from their presence in that country. In the case of the Forum in Istanbul, we had extensive discussion about how to raise visibility of the situation of the Kurdish population in Turkey. Kurdish women have a long history of being silenced or shut out of feminist spaces by some sectors of the women’s movement in Turkey, and in light of this AWID upheld a commitment to inclusion by ensuring that there were two breakout sessions related to the situation of Kurdish women in Turkey, as well as offering Kurdish interpretation in all the plenaries. In addition, prior to the Forum, an AWID Friday File featuring Kurdish women’s resilience was published, with contributions from our two Kurdish members of the IPC (who are based in Turkey). Post Forum, AWID also featured on its website and within its newsletters the new report on Womens Human Rights Defends in Kurdish Regions.

For one of the breakout sessions, IPC members encouraged us to include a session with leading Kurdish activists. They mobilized to confirm the co-president of the Kurdish party and active feminists in the Kurdish movement. The aim of the session was to share information on the situation of Kurdish women including threats that women’s rights advocates face, and to encourage solidarity to transform their conditions. Reports from one of our Kurdish IPC members indicate that the session brought about “good energy, and we saw that everyone passionately wants to discuss the Kurdish issue, exchange information about it and contribute to its solution.”

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7 Despite all the efforts made by AWID and IPC members in Turkey to engage and facilitate Kurdish feminists’ participation at the Forum, there was feedback given to IPC members that the Kurdish movement and Kurdish independent feminists would have liked to comprise a larger percentage of the delegation from Turkey.
Anecdotal feedback from Kurdish women’s rights advocates and groups reveal that relationships were strengthened, connections made, with the broader international women’s movement. A Kurdish IPC member from Turkey, reflected that the Forum “has benefitted the women’s movement [in Turkey]... and was also very informative for the Kurdish woman participants.” In particular, she noted that the Kurdish women who participated in the Forum were “very excited to take part in an international feminist meeting,” and attended many sessions that their MENA sisters organized on war and violence. An historic moment for the Kurdish population and for Turkey was the fact that the Kurdish language was accepted as an official language in the plenaries and some of the breakout sessions.

Our IPC member further highlighted the symbolic importance of the participation of women from the Kurdish BDP (Peace and Democracy Party) at the Forum and the Solidarity March, noting in particular that the party’s Co-Chair, Gültan Kışanak, MP Sebahat Tuncel, and women administrators from the party meaningfully engaged at the Forum and a contingent of Kurdish women participated in the Solidarity March. Considering the dual discrimination faced by Kurdish women in Turkey, and the persecution faced by Kurdish activists and politicians and those sympathetic to them, the engagement of BDP women and Kurdish activists in the Forum was important for providing a platform for them to share their experiences and perspectives with a diverse audience of regional and international feminists and allies.

The hope is that these efforts at the Forum will lead to increased international engagement and capacity on the part of Kurdish Women’s rights advocates going forward. Some of these hopes have been articulated in Turkish and Kurdish media coverage right after the Forum. After the Forum, MP Sebahat Tuncel from the Turkish Parliament, who focuses on Kurdish women and women’s issues more broadly in Turkey (who attended one of the Kurdish sessions) wrote to AWID asking to become a member with the following message:  
We attended the AWID Forum... and it was exciting for us to listen to women’s experiences around the world. We want to be in touch with AWID and follow your activities in order to discuss how we can collaborate with other women organizations.

Another example of how connections made between activists in Turkey and other parts of world came to fruition was when the attack on abortion rights in Turkey took place almost immediately after the Forum. Within days of Prime Minister Erdogan’s anti-choice statements, women’s rights activists based in Turkey took to the streets, and also launched a call for international solidarity and support. AWID worked alongside other international organizations including Amnesty International and the Center for Reproductive Rights, to support an international Say No to Abortion Ban Campaign. After outreach by the IPC members based in Turkey, AWID posted the letter and a call for solidarity on its website. In the end, the petition garnered the support of 55,000 individuals and over 900 organizations and subsequently, the bill was dropped by the Turkish parliament, much to the relief of feminists around the world.

The Turkish textile union also took advantage of the Forum to make a call for international activists to join them in solidarity with a strike they were conducting for workers to receive back

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8 Coverage of issues related to Kurdkish women receive media coverage including:
- http://rojwomen.com/?s=awid-
- http://evrensel.net/news.php?id=27353
wages owed to them by a major transnational. An informal delegation of Forum participants (including labour rights activists with already strong relationships with the unions in Turkey) met and rallied with workers from the union, joined their picket for a time, and union members joined the solidarity march on April 22, 2012 in support of women’s rights.

In reference to the low 39% of survey respondents from outside Turkey that felt they had been able to form links with women based there, it is possible that since participants outside of Turkey were the majority, and they were busy trying to absorb all that the Forum had to offer, they gave less time and emphasis to trying to connect with local women, while women’s groups from Turkey made better use of the opportunity the Forum provided to meet and get to know women from outside their national context. Certainly the Solidarity March after the close of the Forum, rallying in Taksim Square and marching down Istiklal Street, was a highlight often mentioned both by activists from Turkey and elsewhere.

As mentioned earlier, the Forum’s location in Istanbul also provided us with an important opportunity to prioritize engagement with women from the MENA region, particularly at this moment in time. For the first time, Forum registration was available in Arabic and Arabic translations of key pieces of Forum background information and website, as well as the Forum program guide and schedule, were available. After hearing concerns from colleagues in the region that the thematic focus on economics might seem distant to MENA activists given the political turmoil in the region, AWID pursued close collaboration with the Equality without Reservation Coalition, Global Fund for Women, and Women’s Learning Partnership to strengthen our outreach to key women’s groups and convene a pre-meeting to the Forum that would focus on the transitional moment and share insights from the experiences of women’s rights activists from other regions during transitional processes. We are now in the process of documenting results from that pre-meeting on Women’s Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash and advancing a concrete follow-up process that will expand over the next nine months. Clearly the dynamics in the MENA region, and building relationships with activists there were a key interest for many Forum participants, as reflected in the comments below:

*The experience on MENA region transition to democracy has sensitised me and my organization to devise new plans and strong strategies on tackling issues peacefully in order to bring about change in a democratic way.* — Aziza Abemba, Zimbabwe

*Talking with feminists from the MENA region here at the Forum has been enlightening. They are faced with the challenge of ensuring that the revolutions they fought hard for advance women’s rights in a meaningful way. Where religious fundamentalism, political conservatism and militarism are the major social, political forces at play, the challenge cannot be understated. As new constitutions are developed and elections are held, the work of women’s rights activists remains critical. As one of the young activists put it: “Hopefully our next Spring will be a feminist one”. —WUSC EUMC*

*The pre-meeting with women the MENA region as well as some of the activities carried out throughout the Forum shed light on the realities that women are living in this part of the world and particularly what feminist are experiencing. I think that exposing the restrictions on rights and liberties that women are facing within a context that was expected to bring about democratic changes was spot on. This allowed us (myself and some of my colleagues) to see how even between contexts that are very different and far from each other this kind of dynamics are fundamentally similar. Masculine domination and oppression are recyclable. It also showed us interesting movement dynamics with their virtues and weaknesses. It*
allowed us to take a pick at a reality that many of us were not aware of. —Morena Herrera, La Colectiva Feminista, El Salvador

Karama and Hivos hosted a delegation composed of six young women from the MENA region representing five countries, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Libya, to participate in the Forum. In a report they wrote reflecting on the Forum experience they said:

In a conference that brings together multitudes of social actors from different parts of the world, differences are to be expected. In fact, the differences of experience and backgrounds were especially enlightening, and definitely enhanced the experience for the members of the delegation. It is necessary, however, to stress that women's roles in the Arab Spring have been important, and their participation and efforts should not be dismissed nor be limited to the victim. [At the Forum] We agreed that women's rights will become priority, not in spite of, but rather especially due to the newly-founded road to democracy paved by the honourable revolutions we have seen, and experienced.

Other participants from the MENA, whose feedback is highlighted below, is illustrative of the value a space like the Forum provided for their learning especially in relation to cross-regional connections and experience sharing:

Through listening to participants and feminists from different countries, cultures and contexts, I was exposed to unconventional ideas and values at the Forum that helped me develop a less conventional point of view and vision for my work. Sanaa Kareem Altaef, Iraq

The Forum has strengthened the sense of solidarity and resistance between feminists and emphasized the importance of discussion and sharing opinions amongst activists from various regions and context. —Fatma Alkourey Omran, Mauritania

OUTCOME CLUSTER 4:
Young women engaged in key debates contributing to movement-building.

The desired Forum outcome that fits in this cluster:
- Young women are visible and actively engaged in key debates and strategies linked to alternative feminist development visions, contributing to more effective multi-generational movement-building.

AWID has historically placed great emphasis on the inclusion and central participation of young women in its programs and processes, including the Forum, as we recognize the important role that young feminists play in advancing women’s rights. The Forum shows the commitment continued—15% were young women under 30 and participants’ median age was 31.9. But aside from the strong presence of young women, what can we say about their engagement?

Leading up to the Forum, The Young Feminist Activism (YFA) program at AWID played an important role in creating activities for young women at the Forum and ensuring young women’s visibility and meaningful participation as part of its “strategy for engaging young women at the Forum”. This strategy builds on a long history of learning and experimentation with mixing spaces dedicated for young women and efforts to build effective multi-generational connections at the Forum. AWID worked with an advisory board composed of 11 young women representing various movements and regions, to organize and implement the YFA Forum strategy. As part of the preparatory process, the YFA team organized an e-learning session on the theme of the Forum; ensured that sessions organized and led by young women were clearly highlighted in the Forum program guide; coordinated with partners two breakout sessions focusing on young
women and economic power; and worked with other AWID staff to ensure that young women were presenting, leading and participating in various Forum spaces. Young feminists attending the AWID Forum organized, presented, and/or led over 80 sessions.

The Young Feminists Day (Pre-Forum Meeting) was attended by 70 women from 42 countries and received very positive evaluations by participants, who confirmed that the meeting met its objectives. Highlights of these results include a majority of participants reporting learning about how economic power impacts young women, cross regional strategies and tools to transform economic power. Others reported that they were also able to connect the Forum themes to the work of [their] organization and women’s rights and make strong connections with other young women whom they will keep in touch with. Affirming this one participant from South Asia stated that by participating in the meeting, I could better contextualize my struggle within my context and also within the world. And another from the MENA Region said, The diversity of the meeting helped me learn how to network and share experiences with young women around the world and with an open heart. Another from Sub Saharan Africa said, I participated in the online training and YFA Day and then I knew exactly what to expect for the rest of the week and what aspects I would like to explore.

During the Forum itself, AWID organized the Young Feminists Corner (YFC). The YFC was a space designed by and for young women but was open to all Forum participants interested in discussing the challenges, opportunities and impact of economic power on young women and engaging in multigenerational conversations and collaborations. In addition to hosting daily activities such as discussion sessions and blogging activities led by young women, the YFC hoped to create a support community for newcomers and young women within the larger Forum space. Many participants felt the YFC served to support a community of young women activists who engaged in different components of the Forum, like these YFA participants:

The YFC was a great space especially after YFA Day. I felt like it was a great way to hold the community of young women who met each other at YFA Day together and to bring in more young women from the Forum. The community aspect of it helped me understand where I stand in this huge space representing so many movements. —Wojoud Mejalli from Yemen

In my case, I couldn't participate in all the activities at the young feminist corner…but I was able to collect information, and spend some time with young women from other countries and organizations and I was able to meet young indigenous women who I hadn't known until then. —Tania Pariona, Peru

By contrast, others felt the space could have been better conceived and planned for, which may have been compounded by unforeseen logistical challenges of the space:

There is a need to better plan activities at the Young Feminist corner which ensures that young women can mobilize together during that Forum as a group. The solidarity march would have been a great opportunity to have young women marching together and voicing the concerns of young women from around world. There is a need to do this so that there is more solidarity by young women and in that way stronger networks are built around the world by the young women.—Neomai Maravuakula ,Fiji

In addition, on the last afternoon of the Forum a group of young women began circulating a printed statement manifesting their discontent with the visibility and engagement of young women in the Forum (primarily with regard to the plenary speakers). There were some follow up
blogs and tweets by Forum participants that further commented on this perspective as well, and which we have reviewed with interest and attention. As part of AWID’s Forum evaluation and reflection process, our Young Feminist Activism team wrote a blog post to share our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses and lessons learned from our strategy to engage young feminists at the Forum, and we also reflect on this in the learning section.

While we continue to unpack some of the feedback and questions around young women’s participation, responses from young women to the evaluation survey (N=178 of the total 562 responses) shed some light on the bigger picture. 72% of young women reported that they had active and substantive roles at the Forum, and 83% reported that they learned new ways to transform economic power to advance women’s rights and justice. An, overwhelming 95% of young women based on their expectations were satisfied with their experience at the Forum, with two thirds being very satisfied. 84% of young women respondents reported that they were in contact with groups or sectors they do not usually work with, and 50% felt they had built relationships with new organizations and people they do not normally work with. Feedback below provides some texture and depth to the figures above—a dynamic mix of reflections by young (and older) feminists:

As girls growing up in this crazy world, I think knowing as much as we can about how the money world works is very important. Before going to the AWID Forum, I didn’t have any interest in banking or economics, but the women at the conference…made it clear that if we want to change the world, we need to know about how our economies work. The World Bank and IMF are intimately involved in the detriment or success of our sisters around the world. —Smart Girls Outloud

My worldview has expanded, I can look at economic issues and reflect, take action on how best to formulate programmes that address economic power and also to include issues of economic power as a cross cutting issue. I learned from other young women…on how they implement their programmes and movement and am already using this to strengthen girls only organisations we work with and to build a young women movement. —Barwani Msiska, Malawi

As a woman activist, who is 55 years old, I started to realize that I have faith in young women. Maybe their agenda is different than ours…but I [now] have trust that they will continue the struggle. —Trees Kosterman, Israel

OUTCOME CLUSTER 5:
Proposals and Ideas for Moving Forward.

Two desired Forum outcomes fit in this cluster:

- Concrete proposals on rights-based sustainable alternative feminist development visions and practices are put forward and shared among participants.
- Open spaces are created for participants to share their lessons and wisdoms and engage in concrete joint actions after the Forum through transnational women’s rights advocacy initiatives.

A core intention AWID had with this Forum was to carefully craft the program and theme so that the diverse expressions of women’s movements from around the world in attendance could be stimulated to share existing, and potentially develop together, creative and concrete proposals
and joint actions. Some of the data already presented in this report speaks to the achievement of these outcomes to the extent we have data in relation to questions around new ideas for actions, the positive assessments of in-depth sessions, responses to the question “how my work will benefit from the Forum, what I gained from the Forum, and concrete collaborations.” Proposals emerged in various spaces and below we reflect on highlights from the plenary presentations.

- Consider a human rights approach as an ethical lens to judge economic policy; markets and commodification must be in service to human rights and the care and management of the planet; we must reintegrate basic needs and economic rights to human rights discourse,

- Recognize social provisioning as critical to economic systems and give visibility to the diversity of unpaid work on which the commodified economy relies.

- Implement an intercultural approach that evolves the synthesis of values, cultures and visions that are sustainable and desirable as a gift to future generations. Reconnect with and practice the values that underpin non-market based economies—reciprocity, collectivity, solidarity, harmony with nature.

- Apply an ecosystem lens—look beyond the dichotomy of individual and collective, beyond a focus on just forest, ocean or air, to consider the whole system and apply this lens to our communities.

- Go beyond existing indicators (like GDP) to claim our own indicators of well-being and sustainability that are responsive to our communities, rooted in the socioeconomic condition of each nation. This would require broad and deep discussions across cross sections of people to unearth the principles and priorities that would guide these indicators.

Substantiating our achievements vis-à-vis outcome ten will primarily be possible after conducting the longer-term evaluation of the Forum, around one year from now, when we can further track the progress of the ideas and collaborations that emerged from the Forum. At this time, we can present anecdotes that reflect the potential of the Forum for stimulating action. It is important to state that the Forum does not aim to bring a set agenda or campaign that it seeks to recruit participants to. Instead, we aim to provide a space and strategic themes for debate that can be used by those participating to put forward their own priorities and action strategies. The examples below reflect how many organizations see and use the Forum to advance their own objectives, and how Forum debates influence the ways of working and agendas of participants:

AWID 2012 was an opportunity to network and learn from…diverse experiences—there is an opportunity to link the Web for Life with organizations like JASS and The Young Feminist Wire and learn from their best practises in engaging young women in advocacy work...Forum is so far shaping and transforming the organizing of female students in institutions of Higher Learning. —Vimbai Yvonne Mlambo, Students and Youth Working on Reproductive Health Action Team, Zimbabwe

Women Step Forward for Freedom of Speech in Thailand: Junya (Lek) Yimprasert, was so inspired by the participants attending the Forum that on the last day she initiated a solidarity effort to garner support for the struggle in Thailand to abolish Article 112, which severely limits freedom of expression and information. Collecting 150 photo submissions from activists attending the Forum, Lek published a poster, which has gained traction with many
independent medias/websites that have been long famous for fighting for freedom and democracy. As Lek states, *If one photo’s click can be this meaningful for a country that is in much need for international solidarity support, we have made a difference.*

*The feminist movement is arguing that …what is needed is a transformation of macroeconomics and the structural frameworks of finance…demanding a re-examination of the current models of growth and development that are fuelling inequality. New knowledge must be developed that will provide the evidence and support to get from the current patterns of growth to a more humane and humanizing approach…UN Women should be in the frontline of this intellectual space and should support the development of feminist economic perspectives as part of its focus on economic empowerment of women.* —From “Considerations and Actions: Strategic Issues for UN Women to reflect on from the AWID International Forum.”

*On the topic of women’s rights and economy, there were several discussions around microfinance and its strengths and weaknesses as a tool for women’s empowerment…The resulting proposition is that INGOs and the like must focus on women’s economic rights, rather than economic rescue… The conversations around women’s rights and the economy raised interesting questions for Oxfam. Namely, how can we guarantee a humanized economic development model that does not marginalize women? As a well respected leader in debates and proposals on poverty, inequality and international development, how do we build this into the mainstream development discourse?* —From “Reflections on the AWID Forum” assembled by Oxfam International participants at the Forum.

AWID went to great lengths to be responsive in facilitating spaces to address current events or issues. For example, when the March 2012 announcement from the UN Secretary General of a possible 5th World Conference on Women, the news was received with mixed reactions from women’s rights advocates around the world. The Forum space represented one of the first spaces where women from all regions could share information and do some joint thinking on how to respond to this proposal. AWID allocated two caucus sessions for participants to discuss their hopes for a next world conference as well as some discussion of what they see as opportunities and potential challenges. A statement from the caucus asserted, *There was consensus that we don’t want any re-negotiation of Beijing Platform. Hope to get governments to focus in 2015 on implementation and resources — accountability to women’s rights. Many formats discussed but whatever it must have full participation of women’s movements and feed into overall post 2015 UN agenda.* After the Forum and in collaboration with participants in the caucus and members of the GEAR Campaign, AWID launched a Friday File to summarize the status of discussions around a 5th World Conference and solicit reactions and input, which we will synthesize and broadly disseminate to inform future debates. The conclusions of the caucuses held at the Forum are being used as inputs informing strategizing among feminist and women’s groups engaged in the debate and advocacy about the potential 5th UN World Conference on Women.

The examples below highlight how a range of Forum participants and constituencies were inspired to initiate a new action or convening upon returning home from Istanbul. Their collective efforts speak to the capacity of the Forum to strengthen movements, build knowledge and continue the work of transforming economic power.

- **Caribbean Women’s Participation at the Forum and Catch a Fyah:** Participation in the Forum served as a catalyst for further regional collaboration among activists. The “Catch A Fire” meeting facilitated by (CODE RED For Gender Justice) took place in May 2012, to build on regional connections made, and learnings taken from the Forum. The meeting brought together 24 young/ish Caribbean feminists from women’s, feminist, youth and LGBT
organisations, and different religious backgrounds and ethnicities to promote 1) regional feminist activism on sexual and reproductive health and rights which could feed into the ICPD+20 review and strengthen (2) regional feminist mobilization.

I was also reminded of the purpose of our collective presence there [at the Forum] to use the AWID Forum to foster regional feminist mobilisation. It is very easy to go home from the AWID Forum fall into our work routines and struggle to find the time and resources to work regionally. Luckily for us a follow-up activity was already in the works [CATCH A FIRE]
—Tonya Haynes, CODE RED for gender justice, Barbados.

- [among planned post-Forum actions]
  Share the discussions and conclusions from the AWID International Forum with indigenous and grassroots communities since many indigenous women don’t know about these meeting spaces and what’s being worked on at a global level. Promote the empowerment of young indigenous women, providing political training in different issues related to the rights of indigenous women and girls. —The Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas

- Domestic workers were an important constituency at the Forum. In addition to a domestic worker activist on the plenary and domestic worker groups playing a strong role in the Labor and Work in-depth session, activists used the Forum space to raise awareness about the 12 by 12 campaign share information about the campaign on the final plenary and encourage participants to support it. On March 23, as part of our pre-Forum efforts to engage AWID’s constituencies in Forum-related issues, AWID featured the 12 by 12 Campaign in a Friday File. On-site in Istanbul, Forum participants were encouraged to learn more about and sign-up to the campaign. Organized by the International Trade Union Confederation with the International Domestic Workers Network and many other partner organizations, this campaign aims to achieve 12 ratifications of the historic ILO Convention 189 (recognizing domestic workers rights) by the end of 2012.

- During the Forum in Cape Town (2008), a new initiative was announced to create a Young Feminist Fund for mobilizing significant resources to support the next generation of feminist movement builders. By the time of the Forum in Istanbul, FRIDA – The Young Feminist Fund was a powerful presence. FRIDA had launched its first round of grantmaking at the end of 2011 and awarded 16 grants of 4,000.00 USD each to young feminist initiatives around the globe. Thirteen of the grantees were able to come to the Forum to participate in a pre-meeting dedicated to relationship and capacity-building among the grantees and to participate in the Young Feminist Activism Day. FRIDA hosted a highly successful, official launch event that was attended by over 80 participants and co-hosted a session, Making the Case for Young Feminist Activism, with Mama Cash, the Central American Women’s Fund/FCAM and the Global Fund for Women. Below are some reactions from FRIDA grantees to the Forum:

  The 2012 AWID Forum as a whole gave me a feeling of being a member of a dedicated family with common interests rather than being an individual with limited capabilities to accomplish my goals. The Forum further added to my motives for struggling hard to bringing justice for women and making the unachievable, achievable.

  Compared to the last AWID in Cape Town, young women were so much more visible during this Forum. I liked the fact that I was able to navigate myself better during the Forum as compared to last time. I liked that young women were also very visible in cyberspace.

  I learnt the different areas of how economics influences and affects the lives of women and what I can do as a young woman to harness the power of economics to benefit women.

  I learned about resource mobilisation and got to speak to donors and their views and what they fund.
Religious fundamentalism was a wake up call to something I have been speaking about all my activism life but didn’t know which words to use. That was one of my highlights.

- Many organizations, knowing the broad convening power of an AWID Forum, choose to “piggyback” their own events either immediately before or after the Forum. This speaks to the relevance of the Forum space for many groups, as they aim to bring their own agendas into the space and/or draw from it to inform their own work. It is also clearly a means of maximizing resources as there is considerable cost-sharing related to participant travel expenses (and for some groups a chance to engage participants that they might not otherwise be able to confirm for a single short event). We do not have a full listing of all of the groups that organized side events, but below is a sample of what we do know (in addition to the pre-meetings discussed elsewhere for sex workers, FRIDA and transition to democracy):
  - APC WNSP meeting on secure online communications for women human rights defenders
  - Women and Global Migration Network (WGMN), Strategy Meeting on Women and Global Migration
  - Programme on Women's Economic Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR), workshop on Women, Poverty and Human Rights
  - Groots International convening of grassroots women leaders
  - JASS (Just Associates), cross-regional dialogue: Feminist Movement-building: Ideas and Action
  - Center for Women’s Global Leadership, Economic Justice Training
  - Global Fund for Women board meeting and site visits with donors
  - Meeting of the WHRD International Coalition
  - Simons Foundation meeting
  - Meeting of the regional coordinators of the UNITE to End Violence Against Women Campaign
  - Women on the March until we are All Free, World March of Women meeting with women from Turkey
  - Women’s Learning Partnership
  - Oxfam Great Britain grantees meeting

- Young Feminist Activism Day participant, Barwani Msiska, from the National Youth Council of Malawi returned home to Lilongwe and decided to plan a one day national-level feedback workshop. The participants will be a mix of women leaders and young women; those that comprehend some of the themes in economic power and others that are implementing or have the potential of implementing gender and economic empowerment programs. The goal is to get young women talking about economic power and women’s rights agendas!

- Nadine Moawad, a young feminist activist from Beirut recently shared her compelling story with us about what she was able to achieve after the Forum left her better informed about economic issues, gender, and macro-economic policies. The Economic Toolbox session ‘Demystifying Macroeconomic Policy’ and a follow-up spontaneous session that
took place with feminist economist Radhika Balakrishnan equipped her with some of the basics of economy and gender and inspired her to act upon returning home:

[After the Forum] as I was going through the government website, I found their new socio-economic reform plan and a call for comments from the public. I read through it (thanks to Radhika's presentation, I could understand most of the terms and their gender implications) and I decided to email them some comments [as] the plan had zero mention of or attention to gender. A week later, I get a reply from a woman on the socio-economic advisory team who invites me over to talk about my feedback and we start strategizing together how to include gender equality, budgeting, and mainstreaming in the government plan. Fast forward many meetings and a few weeks later, today, [Salim] gives me a call to tell me that we have officially succeeded in adding a commitment on gender equality (and the subsequent action plans that come with it) to the official plan for the first time ever! :)

Thank you for all the valuable lessons on macro-economic policies at the Forum, which sparked an interest that I never had before, and most importantly for teaching us that these aren’t super complicated spaces to negotiate in once we have the right tools. All it took was a little research and the luck of having a feminist ally on the inside, and we made a big change that will hopefully trickle down into ministerial policies and action plans in the near future.

AWID 2012 International Forum Seed Grants

Looking forward, perhaps one of most significant ways AWID helps facilitate concrete initiatives that build on the Forum is through the AWID Seed Grants. AWID will soon be launching its call for proposals, in an effort to award approximately 20 seed Grants of 5,000.00 USD to support original projects inspired by the Forum theme. This will be the fourth time that AWID has awarded these post-Forum grants, which looking back have collectively served to vitalize and strengthen women’s rights and feminist movement, build alliances, promote intergenerational collaboration and action plans. They also serve to ensure that some of the concrete ideas and initiatives that are born at the Forum have initial resources to start and then become greater projects or programs (even organizations) that contribute to advance women’s rights and gender equality worldwide.

9 The 2008 Forum stand as an example of the power and potential of these small grants. These initiatives were stunningly diverse included such projects as workshops to strengthen multi-generational women’s organizing in Cameroon and the Caribbean, LGBTI movements in Nepal, feminists in Lithuania, indigenous women’s organizing in Mexico, and a Feminist Technology Exchange Between Feminists from Latin America and the Caribbean. To learn more about the 2008 Seed Grant winners see: http://www.awid.org/eng/Homepage/Forum/new-Forum/2009-AWID-Innovation-Seed-Grant-Recipients2
SECTION 6

AWID LEARNINGS
What has become more and more apparent given the size and diversity of the Forum is that there is no single answer to the question “how did we do?” Different people evaluate the various dimensions of the Forum differently. In this section, we aim to summarize some of AWID’s overall learnings and insights with regard to what the Forum achieved and what we will focus on improving for next time. This reflection draws from extensive debriefing within AWID, conversations with close to 50 Forum participants, partners and allies and the findings from the Forum online evaluation survey presented above.

**Forum theme:** We have clearly seen that the thematic focus for the Forum was an appropriate and strategic choice. A diverse array of actors have reported appreciation for the timeliness and strategic opportunity provided by focusing the Forum on transforming economic power to advance women’s rights and justice. The fact that many of the current and future intergovernmental processes will be focused on key issues related to economics and development, reiterate the need for women’s rights advocates and movements to have strong capacity, strategies and clear agendas to influence the results of these processes and ensure that they are responsive to women’s needs and realities, advancing development models that are more just, sustainable, democratic and respectful of human rights.

> In a time when economic crisis has spread across the globe making the governments cutting budgets on issues important to women, the Forum expressed the great determination to make women’s angry voices heard. —WIDE Newsletter

**Skills and Capacity Building on Economics:** The Forum’s component on economic education was also clearly on target and was reinforced throughout several sessions and plenaries. Many Forum participants called for reviving much of the feminist work on economic literacy and economic education work of past decades and for continuing to forge stronger connections between feminist economists and academics with activists. The Forum affirmed that strengthening the capacity of women’s rights advocates to engage in economics and development issues is a need, and that they need knowledge and tools to influence decision making at all levels. Going forward we hope to contribute to respond to this need deepening some of the partnerships built during the Forum process to continue reviving initiatives on feminist economic education and exploring the possibility of launching new collaborative projects and initiatives.

As a more immediate contribution, we are currently redeveloping the Forum website so that it ceases to be a logistics and event site and instead becomes a resource hub on the Forum theme, which will facilitate learning by women rights advocates and those working on questions of economic power in other social movements. Given the huge amount of content generated for and in response to the Forum, this process is occurring in different phases throughout 2012 with content being strategically selected and curated to highlight key issues and debates relating to the Forum theme and to facilitate learning on the connections between the Forum theme and diverse women’s rights issues and agendas

**Engagement of Young Women:** The past several Forums were heralded as spaces of strong engagement, visibility and participation by young women. This Forum received much more mixed feedback in this regard, in spite of a similar amount of preparation and attention on the part of AWID. This time we put particular attention to ensure that young women were not only “seen” or “celebrated” but they were actually listened to in different sessions throughout the Forum. In this sense, the participation of young women as speakers in diverse sessions (not only the ones organized by young women, but many others) ensured that there was a meaningful contribution by young women, beyond the discussion on age inclusion and
multigenerationality. This time, however, we did not put as much attention to the high visibility of young women throughout the Forum as we did in 2008. So, the results were positive in one side (women from different generations actually sat and listened to young women making substantive contributions across different Forum sessions), but they were not as visible as before. 12% of respondents to the question, “how would you change the Forum?” said they would like to see young people play more meaningful roles.

AWID’s Young Feminist Activism program in a recent blogpost framed some of the complex questions around what it means for young women to be visible and actively engaged in global feminist spaces such as the Forum. As discussed in Outcome Cluster 4 of this report many young women found the Young Feminist Corner as a key space to build a community while others felt this combined with the lack of visibility of young women in the plenaries was an indication of exclusionary politics and practices. It seems too that young women and allies who attended the multiple young women-led breakout sessions saw young women’s engagement in the Forum as strong. For other participants who did not seek out spaces where young women were present, the fact that only one young woman spoke on a plenary panel represented a lack of commitment to profiling young feminist voices and perspectives. Yet others reported that various sessions and activities led by young women were some of the most interesting, political and dynamic discussions at the Forum, not because of the age of the organizers and speakers but because of the depth of analysis and strategizing. AWID is committed to continuing the dialogue about the many questions that the Forum experience has raised and to use that process to inform and shape our strategy for engaging young women at the next Forum. AWID as an organization has a historical and deep commitment to supporting young feminist participation and leadership, and we will take the learnings from this Forum seriously and factor them not only in future Forums, but also in other events and activities that we will organize.

Diversity of Participation and Inclusion: Previous sections of this report and Appendix 1 have discussed the extent of diversity among Forum participants. We collaborated with numerous different organizations in the planning of the program and we believe this, and the careful outreach process leading up to the Forum facilitated a greater level of ownership among collaborating partners and allies. AWID is proud that the Forum continues to be a space that is increasingly diverse and inclusive, where resources alone do not determine access and participation, and that cross-movement building can be advanced. However, it was interesting to see that 18% of respondents to “How would you change the Forum?” felt the Forum should be more accessible, diverse and inclusive. Reflecting on the implications of this paradox—the Forum is more diverse then ever while there are strong claims for even greater diversity—have led us to the follow observations and hypotheses which we will weigh as we embark on planning for the next Forum:

- At one level, “accessibility” has to do with the level of language and discourse used at the Forum. There were some who felt there was a significant use of academic language that was unhelpful. This is always a delicate balance and particular on economic themes, different speakers were more and less successful in using language that could resonate with a broad audience. This kind of language and terminology used also presents real challenges with regards to multi-lingual interpretation given that this reality affects the quality of interactions between participants as well as the understanding of the issues being discussed.

- The demands to ensure diversity (or representation) are also a reminder of some of the challenges of identity-based organizing, and the fact that we are still, as feminist movements, building good models of how to be inclusive in non-tokenistic ways. AWID has learned that the degree to which the Forum is able to reflect the agendas and interests of diverse constituencies can in part be attributed to the efforts and organizing groups do when
planning how to use the Forum space. For the Forum, indigenous women’s groups stand as a shining example of how this worked well. We included a representative from indigenous women’s movements in the Forum IPC. Months before the Forum, indigenous women’s groups approached AWID with clear demands and interests for their participation in the Forum. As a result of this sustained engagement, we received very positive feedback about the inclusion of indigenous women themselves as well as how the Forum featured their agendas and the issues they care about.

By contrast, there are other groups that have long histories of exclusion from global feminist spaces who were demanding that AWID be more inclusive—perhaps without recognizing that there is already openness to greater inclusion and engagement on our part. For example, the AWID team was surprised to hear women with disabilities speak out in the final plenary in Istanbul demanding that more be done to integrate them into the Forum (such as providing sign language and interpretation), noting that at least the presence of a woman with a disability as a plenary speaker was an important advance. In fact, there was also a plenary speaker from the movement of women with disabilities at the 2008 Forum. AWID translated the Forum Programme into braille for the Istanbul Forum, and was prepared to offer sign language interpretation but cancelled it before the Forum because no one had registered with that requirement. Our attempts to reach out to activists with disabilities and engage them more proactively in the Forum in substantive ways were met with very limited responses and made it challenging for us to more effectively engage them in the Forum.

Colleague Srilatha Batliwala in recent primer on social exclusion for marginalized women\(^\text{10}\) reminds us that “power is at the heart of social exclusion, and that “power relations shape the boundaries of participatory spaces, what is possible within them, and who may enter, with which identities discourse and interests.”\(^\text{11}\) We will hold this in mind looking towards the next Forum as we reflect and strategize on how to promote substantive engagement with specific constituencies who have not yet had the Forum experience that they would like. This means more concretely, that AWID will assess, learn, and explore new mechanisms for sustaining connections and relationships with women who come from highly excluded or discriminated groups, and how such groups can use the Forum to more effectively advance their agendas.

- One historic challenge at Forums, which was experienced again in Istanbul, was that while many diverse groups are present at the event, participants tend to attend sessions that are familiar to them. This means that some sessions that are organized by commonly excluded groups do not get as many participants to attend. For example, those sessions that had “disability” in the title were almost entirely attended only by women with disabilities. The breaking out of comfort zones is something that is a concerted effort and part of a process. AWID can contribute to this, but participants must also take responsibility for taking advantage of the opportunities they have to connect with different experiences and actors and moving beyond their comfort zones. For the next Forum we will look into other methodological and programmatic options to encourage participants to keep on “moving beyond their comfort zones” (either from their sector, region or issues they commonly work on).

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• Concerns with inclusiveness also pertain to inclusiveness of diverse political positions. For example, some of the concerns raised about the visibility of sex worker activists in the Forum was that similar visibility was not given to abolitionist positions or anti-trafficking work. Again this is a delicate balance that AWID seeks to navigate. Part of our effectiveness as a convenor is that we bring together diverse positions and facilitate engagement across differences. However there are also issues on which AWID takes clear positions and we may choose to give greater visibility to one side because we feel that makes a strategic contribution to the debates. Kaythi Win’s message on the plenary “nothing for us without us” is an example of such a contribution. Being able to put forward clear positions on polemic issues while at the same time encouraging respectful dialogue and engagement by participants who hold different positions such issues is one contribution AWID tries to make in all the spaces we convene. AWID is committed to this because we believe such dialogue and engagement is fundamental to continue building our movements and being able to work and build solidarity on the issues.

• In fundraising for the Forum, the cost of simultaneous interpretation was often what raised most questions from funders as to whether it was really ‘worth it’. Interpretation is crucial to make the Forum accessible across languages and make it a truly ‘global’ event. However, clearly the significant costs of an event such as the Forum also pose questions around use of resources and how we can make the event accessible for people who are not able to attend in person. AWID is committed to further exploring possibilities for linking the Forum to other related events (perhaps that are planned at regional levels) and to continue to advance our capacity to use technology for engaging participants virtually. We will be exploring the question of how many languages are needed to make the Forum an inclusive space, without significantly affecting the diversity of participants and the financial sustainability/viability of the Forum as well.

• Participants’ expectations of the Forum are also clearly influenced and determined by their level of access to such international or global spaces and how many Forums they have attended in the past. There are certain type of deeper level discussions and debates that are harder to have at the Forum, given the kind of space it is. For such participants being in a space that is so diverse and inclusive of different perspectives and experiences might no longer satisfy the kind of expectations they have by attending the Forum. Navigating these diverse profiles of participants and their expectations is becoming increasingly complex and also requires us, as AWID, to reflect deeper about the purpose of the Forum.

Has the Forum become too large? As excited as we feel to have organized the largest and most inclusive AWID Forum in the history of the organization, it is clear that the size has a significant impact on the dynamics and atmosphere of the event. For some participants the Forum felt “too large” this time, and therefore, they struggled to connect with people they wanted to or they felt the space did not provide deeper sense of community. The desirable size of the Forum also raises questions for us in terms of the kind of venues that can accommodate such event, with all the facilities required (accessibility, transportation, interpretation, AV functionality, internet connection, etc.) and the limitations that come with this (only countries that have such infrastructure can be considered to host the Forum). It further raises questions in terms of methodology, amount of sessions and building an inclusive dynamic space that also encourages the community-like feeling among participants as well. We are clear (learning from this experience) that a larger Forum means that we can have better representation from different constituencies, but that does not automatically translate in all participants feeling included or feeling the space as inclusive. Also, the size raises questions of cost that are not minor given the challenging funding environment. Clearly the question of Forum size will be a
key one for AWID’s Board of Directors and the next Forum IPC to carefully discuss as we start preparing for our next Forum in 2015.

Using the Forum to Strengthen and Support Women’s Movements: Challenges experienced in the course of planning the Forum in 2008 prompted AWID to dedicate much greater attention to outreach and relationship-building with local women’s rights groups in Turkey. Although we did not experience the same challenges, even with comprehensive information and very regular communication (in Turkish) and the significant lack of engagement and contact with broader international women’s movements, it was difficult for activists in Turkey to proactively consider how they might use all the potential that the Forum offered to advance their interests and agendas. After the Forum, a member of the International Planning Committee based in Turkey told us that she was disappointed because it was only after the Forum began that she realized its significance and felt that women’s rights activists in Turkey had not been able to take full advantage of this very unique opportunity. Several meetings were organized by Turkish based IPC members after the Forum to discuss the implications of their learning and participation for Turkish feminist movements and how to ensure that their participation in the next AWID Forum would be stronger.

That said, clearly there were also important successes in this regard, epitomized in the solidarity march on the last day of the Forum. The opportunity for Forum participants to connect with activists in Turkey and learn more about women’s rights struggles there as the country is taking on an increasingly prominent role in global geopolitics was highly valued by many. Similarly, the opportunity to learn from activists from the MENA region about the implications of the post-Arab spring reality for women’s rights struggles reinforced the urgency of strengthening our connections with that region and collectively strategizing to counter the regressive forces that are gaining ground in MENA, and will in turn be impacting women’s rights agendas in forthcoming international processes.

AWID sees the Forum as an event that we hope stimulates and sharpens strategic agendas of women’s movements, but it is also a convening very much intended to respond to the needs of women’s rights activists, organizations and movements. AWID carries a significant responsibility to structure the space in the most effective and strategic way possible and to select insightful speakers and sessions. Forum participants and session organizers carry responsibility for how they use the space and choose to engage with each other. Groups that take the time to consider their objectives coming into the Forum, who make space to debrief and make sense of what they’re experiencing on site, tend to be much more satisfied with the Forum. Our framing of the Forum as a process gives AWID even greater opportunity to actively engage with a range of groups in the lead-up to the Forum so that they are informing the program and methodology. At the same time, just as others have mentioned they appreciate the Forum as an opportunity to get a pulse of women’s movements, the Forum serves that purpose for AWID as well. It is a space where we are testing out thinking, learning about the priorities of the many constituencies present, and considering how our work—both the Forum and beyond—can continue to facilitate opportunities for strong articulation and strategic action to advance women’s rights.

Forum Program and Methodology

We received largely positive feedback to the many innovations in the Forum program, as well as helpful constructive feedback for improvements. The percentages below refer to the percentage of the 447 respondents that responded to the question “How would you change the Forum?” In general, participants very much appreciated the intention of the in-depth sessions
and we have already heard from other organizations that decided to pilot their own versions of such sessions in forthcoming events, drawing on their experience at the AWID Forum. There was also much appreciation of the various dedicated areas/hubs that facilitated following a particular track or theme during the Forum.

There is still significant room for improvement in terms of the methodology of breakout sessions as this was mentioned by 17% of respondents. Many participants complained of the dominance of panels with numerous speakers, which left little room for interaction. AWID tries to encourage creative more participatory methodologies, however this is a challenge that we will continue to grapple with and consider in terms of possible changes for the next Forum and experiment with more interactive and participatory methodologies and ways to improve the quality control over all breakout sessions.

We again also heard a significant (27%) number of requests to reduce the number of sessions and activities at the Forum. This is a constant refrain in every Forum evaluation and in the past we have stood firm in the belief that part of the uniqueness and value of the space is that it attempts to provide something for everyone and maximize the limited time we have together. However, AWID staff also took away some of these questions from our experience in Istanbul and particularly how it ‘felt’ to have close to 300 more participants than we’ve had in the past. Going forward we will put serious attention to the notion of ‘less is more’ and perhaps test having more open or loose spaces, exploring other types of methodologies. Somewhat related, 8% of respondents asked for more formal and structured spaces for networking.

Plenaries were an area that received quite mixed reviews. Many participants were frustrated with the panel-style emphasis and the large numbers of speakers. Others raised concerns about voices that were missing from the plenaries and should have been present or the integration of stronger artistic expressions in them as well. Some most enjoyed the plenary on the second day with ‘big names’ and more academic framing. Others much preferred the third day with looser sharing from diverse activists. Some were frustrated that the final plenary did not more clearly frame key ‘takeaways’ from the Forum. Because of their critically important role in the Forum program, the plenaries are certainly one area that we will continue to significantly refine and reconsider, both making hard choices in terms of expectations of ‘representation’ on plenaries and in their methodology. The process to confirm plenary speakers is very time-consuming (as we strive to find balance and a strategic fit of speakers) and thus preparations, and therefore options for diverse methodologies, are often cut short. Intentions to have more interactive and engaging moderation are difficult to translate into practice in contexts of multiple languages and speakers who have in some cases little knowledge of each other. Nevertheless, we will continue to strive to strengthen the Forum plenaries, including more significant integration of artistic and creative elements and the exploration of different methodologies that push us to do things more outside of the box and innovate at this level as well. There are also important learnings we are taking forward about how to organize the in-depth sessions. As one of the more complex new Forum program components, we learned a lot about in-depth sessions, which were aimed at generating a space that allowed for a deeper level of engagement and dialogue across regions and sectors, making the best of the possibility provided by the Forum as the truly global space it is. We value this initial experience as very positive. This said, the fact that most respondents (between 63% to 83%) found in-depth sessions somewhat useful points to the need to do a careful review of the methodology used.

Learnings from the Resource Mobilization Hub
AWID learned from organizing the RM Hub that the collaborative effort we engaged in prior to the Forum to mold a bridge-building agenda and space that was welcoming to all participants
truly paid off. The RM Hub represents an historical shift in AWID Forums in this regard, as it took care to ensure that donors were engaging as part of women’s movements instead of separately.

When looking at all of the activities conducted at the Hub and analyzing major trends and lessons learned, the following conclusions can be drawn: the RM Hub: 1. underscored the hunger for more dialogue on the part of both donors and activists; 2. contributed to continue shifting the paradigm from fundraising to resource mobilization, where resources are more than just money; 3. highlighted the ongoing need for skills building on fundraising and M&E and; 4. offered a place for dialogue and connections.

The RM Hub was a space for all interested in discussing, debating, reflecting, strategizing and networking about how to mobilize resources to support feminists and women’s rights organizing, about the politics of it all and current funding trends. It was not a donor space-only, but a place to come together as women’s rights advocates and allies. It is also clear that the issue of resources for women’s organizations and movements is increasingly challenging given the current economic climate. The fact that the Evening Plenary or “Funders Forum” was the most highly attended Funders Forum of the last three Forums organized points to the fact that there is strong interest on the part of women’s rights advocates about feminist resource mobilization and the trends affecting their work. We estimate that well over 500 participants attended the Funders Forum, 382 of which confirmed their participation through the online survey. This presence and response further underscored that AWID has been playing a critical role in terms of putting questions about opportunities and challenges to mobilizing resources for women’s rights and gender equality on the table. Just how AWID should and will dedicate its efforts in this area going forward is currently being defined by a process of reflection on the Forum discussions as well interviews with key stakeholders and allies as part of our Strategic Planning process.

Safety and Security at the Forum
The comprehensive contingency plan about safety and security that AWID developed and implemented for Forum was essential. The plan allowed AWID to navigate threats and ensure that any incidents that arose on site were professionally and discreetly handled and went unnoticed to most Forum participants. AWID learned the amount of preparation and efforts that went into this piece of work was well worth the effort, and we strongly believe that the safety and security garnered at the Forum was because AWID was well-prepared.

Forum Logistics: Although feedback about Forum logistics was overwhelmingly positive, 16% of respondents mentioned challenges with the logistics of the Forum. Most of this feedback was related to particular challenges that we faced in Istanbul—numerous hotels that were spread out across the city, almost no options within walking distance of the venue and therefore a somewhat complex schedule of shuttles to and from hotels. Fortunately, a strong majority of evaluation respondents said they were either very (63%) or somewhat (30%) satisfied with the logistics in the lead-up to the Forum.
SECTION 7

LOOKING FORWARD:
THE NEXT AWID FORUM
Over the next year, AWID will be continuing a careful process of reflection to draw lessons from the Forum to be applied in the planning process for the next Forum future. This is part of our current evaluation and strategic planning process that will culminate in a new strategic plan for AWID through 2018. We will be looking at how to ensure the Forum remains a helpful and strategic space to respond to the needs and concerns of women’s rights and feminist movements working globally. To do this, we will deepen and expand some of the analysis shared in this report around key learnings, and concretize into areas of improvement; we will also carry out a year-after Forum evaluation to provide helpful insights and learnings about the Forum and its longer-term impact.

We will further explore questions around how best to organize the Forum, how to improve our multi-lingual promotion and ensure stronger and more effective virtual engagement, making the best of social networks and new communication and information technologies. We will also creatively address what it means to organize such a large and diverse space, in terms of cost and levels of engagement.

These assessments will lead to a synthesized action plan and timeline to assemble the next International Planning Committee that will finalize the focus, process and methodologies of the next Forum. Discussion of the next Forum location and theme will likely be taken up by mid-2013. We will work extremely hard to ensure that the next AWID Forum remains salient, that it is an effective and strategic space for women’s rights activists and their allies that contributes to collective reflection and strategizing around the ongoing systemic challenges that hinder the advancement of women’s rights worldwide.
SECTION 8

AWID FORUM FINANCIAL REPORT
## 2012 AWID Forum Budget
### Income Report Jan-Dec 2012
Stated in USD

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA Turkey - Caucuses</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(3,000)</td>
<td>Funding not granted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN WOMEN</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>70,926</td>
<td>(99,074)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual donations</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>10,401</td>
<td>(119,599)</td>
<td>Fewer funds raised than anticipated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FORUM IN USD</strong></td>
<td>2,427,692</td>
<td>1,961,625</td>
<td>(466,067)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2012 AWID Forum Budget Expense Report (Jan-Dec 2012)

Stated in USD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Item</th>
<th>Budget*</th>
<th>Actuals 2012</th>
<th>Variance Over / (Under)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communications</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTR</td>
<td>11,930</td>
<td>18,026</td>
<td>6,096</td>
<td>$4,500 in Forum website development; additional postage expenses for SID Journal mailout.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consulting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocated &amp; Honoraria</td>
<td>18,909</td>
<td>18,311</td>
<td>-598</td>
<td>Projected expenses were lower than budgeted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Congress Organizer</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>18,772</td>
<td>-6,228</td>
<td>Additional expenses for Media specialist ($8,500) MENA Forum research project ($24,000), Forum Evaluation ($6,000); other consulting expenses related to Forum audio-casting higher than anticipated ($12,000).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Consultant, Translation &amp; Forum Consultant</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>66,822</td>
<td>53,822</td>
<td>Registration services were provided by the Professional Congress Organizer; projected expense was lower than budgeted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>9,563</td>
<td>-5,437</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, Consulting</strong></td>
<td>71,909</td>
<td>113,468</td>
<td>41,559</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facility rental and related expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum venue rental</td>
<td>165,000</td>
<td>186,512</td>
<td>21,512</td>
<td>Catering expenses were higher than budgeted, with Forum attendance higher than anticipated. Please note that Gala dinner did not take place as originally planned, but was replaced by a Forum Party and Tribute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum catering/gala dinner</td>
<td>675,000</td>
<td>764,899</td>
<td>89,899</td>
<td>Additional IT capacity was added after the budget was established to accommodate additional participants and services such as wifi, internet corner, etc. MENA meeting, Tribute were not part of the budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum AV equipment &amp; registration</td>
<td>170,000</td>
<td>201,996</td>
<td>31,996</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuttle buses/transfer</td>
<td>110,000</td>
<td>100,233</td>
<td>-9,767</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local staff wages &amp; Participant packets</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>48,936</td>
<td>3,936</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, Facility rental and related expenses</strong></td>
<td>1,165,000</td>
<td>1,302,576</td>
<td>137,576</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Simultaneous Interpretation</strong></td>
<td>530,000</td>
<td>288,059</td>
<td>-241,941</td>
<td>Actual costs for interpreters were less than anticipated, by using an alternate interpretation provider. Savings on this item will contribute to cover other forum costs that were over-budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodations, per diem, visas, registration</td>
<td>264,000</td>
<td>142,440</td>
<td>-121,560</td>
<td>Lower rates were negotiated for Accommodation. Some Access Fund participants did not receive per diem if it was not covered by the relevant funder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airfare</td>
<td>336,000</td>
<td>323,681</td>
<td>-12,319</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, Access Fund</strong></td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>466,121</td>
<td>-133,879</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Travel</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum Accommodations - staff/board/IPC/interpreters</td>
<td>63,824</td>
<td>104,336</td>
<td>40,512</td>
<td>Accommodation expenses were higher than budgeted, due to staff arriving earlier than originally planned to carry out coordination and preparation onsite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum Airfare - staff/board/IPC/Interpreters &amp; Site Inspections</td>
<td>135,095</td>
<td>89,429</td>
<td>-45,666</td>
<td>Cost savings were realized by the travel agents engaged to book flights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Travel Insurance</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>3,079</td>
<td>-6,921</td>
<td>Insurance expenses were less than anticipated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per diems &amp; Visas</td>
<td>27,088</td>
<td>25,431</td>
<td>-1,657</td>
<td>Per diem expenses were higher than budgeted, due to staff arriving earlier than originally planned to carry out coordination and preparation onsite.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility (participants with disabilities/childcare) accommodations, airfare, per diems &amp; visas</td>
<td>19,800</td>
<td>6,992</td>
<td>-12,808</td>
<td>While 15 participants with disabilities attended the Forum, expenses for three participants were covered by AWID. Wheelchair rental and braille translation included in expenses. Childcare was not available at the Forum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, Travel</strong></td>
<td>255,807</td>
<td>229,267</td>
<td>-26,540</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Printing and Translation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion, Design/Layout</td>
<td>64,788</td>
<td>21,348</td>
<td>-43,440</td>
<td>Expenses less than budgeted, as some communications materials were not produced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing/Website development</td>
<td>48,944</td>
<td>35,184</td>
<td>-13,760</td>
<td>Website development was allocated to Communications expenses (see above).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translations</td>
<td>49,859</td>
<td>43,818</td>
<td>-6,041</td>
<td>Expenses less than budgeted, as some communications materials were not produced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal, Printing and Translation</strong></td>
<td>163,591</td>
<td>100,350</td>
<td>-63,241</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AWID personnel time (Salaries &amp; Benefits)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>269,864</td>
<td>270,950</td>
<td>1,086</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>50,543</td>
<td>52,112</td>
<td>1,569</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total, AWID personnel time (Salaries &amp; Benefits)</strong></td>
<td>320,407</td>
<td>323,062</td>
<td>2,655</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organizational overhead</strong></td>
<td>44,445</td>
<td>38,561</td>
<td>-5,884</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,163,089</td>
<td>2,879,490</td>
<td>-283,599</td>
<td>-283,599</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Reference Budget is the final AWID 2012 Forum Budget approved by AWID’s Board in March 2012. Please note that earlier versions of the Forum budget included some expenses that were incurred in 2011 (e.g. IPC meeting, Forum Website launch). Please contact us if you would like further details on these expenses.
Appendix

Appendix 1A:
The Diversity of AWID 2012 International Forum Participants

AWID prides itself on our ability to ensure the AWID 2012 International Forum (Forum) is a diverse space. The information below provides some detailed analysis on the participants, and organized by region, age, and wide range of professional backgrounds and workspaces they occupy. The reflections below provide some key highlights and analysis of the registration data collected.

Regional Assessment
- As the Forum is an important site for building and sustaining relationships and solidarity across women’s movements and issue-based activism, it is important to AWID that close to two-thirds of participants are from developing and transition countries. This is a trend we would like to continue to increase.
- We are particularly pleased that the location of the Forum in Turkey greatly increased the participation of women from Turkey and the MENA region, who comprised 20% of the total participants.
- We are also pleased that the trend of increased participation by women from otherwise isolated regions —such as the Caucasus, Central Asia, CIS, and Central,Eastern Europe and the Pacific—has continued, with about 10% of our total participants coming from these regions.

Professional Involvement
- Since the last Forum there has been an increase in participation of representatives of donor agencies from different funding sectors and philanthropists (16% at this Forum), indicating that the Forum is seen as an important space in which to listen and learn about the challenges, strategies, and concerns of women’s movements worldwide, and hopefully integrate these insights into their funding strategies.
- The proportion of academics (6%) to activists (3%) is noteworthy, as it contributes to the issues and concerns of the latter influence and informs the nature of research and theorization on gender in the academy.
- Recognizing the important role that individuals not affiliated with a specific organization play in movements, we were pleased that individual activists and advocates represented a solid 3% of total participants at the AWID Forum.

Participant Identity
- Finally, we know that identity is complex. In order to better understand who attends the Forum (and who does not) we attempted to understand the multiple identities by asking registrants to identify themselves in their own words in their registration forms. In the evaluation survey, we codified the registration responses to provide respondents with multiple choice options, the details of which are below in Table 4.
Issue/s focus of participant’s work: Among those that responded, the top five thematic areas of focus suggest a diversity of thematic interests among participants, including: gender based violence/violence against women (15%), women’s leadership and empowerment (11%), peace building and violence against women in conflict/post conflict (10%), sexual rights (8%), and economic, social and cultural rights (8%).

**Figure 5: Forum Participants by Region**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caucasus, Central Asia and CIS</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and South East Asia</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Caribbean</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Saharan Africa</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern, Central and Eastern Europe</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Europe</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: Language of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>1661</td>
<td>74.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>7.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>4.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>9.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>3.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2239</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Totals</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>90.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>3.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgendered</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn't select/not applicable</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>5.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2239</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 6: Age of Participants

- <20: 0.49%
- 20-30: 14.25%
- 30-40: 27.69%
- 40-50: 22.42%
- 50-60: 18.27%
- 60-70: 8.84%
- >70: 1.03%
- Didn't respond/not applicable: 7.01%
### Table 4: Identity of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identity of Participants</th>
<th>Percentage who self-identified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women of color or afro-descendent</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassroots women</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or intersex</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migrant Women</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Women</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Workers</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Workers</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women with Disabilities</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women living with HIV or AIDS</td>
<td>Under 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roma Women</td>
<td>Under 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalit Women</td>
<td>Under 3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Figure 7: Forum Participants Professional Involvement

- Member of a women’s rights-focused non-governmental organization or activist group: 52.00%
- Representative of a Donor Agency / Funder: 16.00%
- Member of a non-governmental organization or activist group that is not women’s rights-focused: 12.00%
- Didn’t respond/not applicable: 8.00%
- Other: 7.00%
- Academic, someone who works primarily within academia/universities: 6.00%
- An individual, not affiliated with any of the above kinds of groups/organizations: 3.00%
- Elected public official or government employee: 2.00%
- Member of the Media: 1.00%
Figure 8: Forum Participants’ Thematic Area of Professional Involvement

- Access to education: 2.23%
- Arts and creativity: 0.09%
- Democracy/Governance: 0.31%
- Didn’t respond/not applicable: 8.08%
- Disabilities: 0.80%
- Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs): 7.91%
- Environmental rights and justice: 0.04%
- Gender based violence/violence against women: 15.19%
- Gender justice: 1.07%
- General health: 1.74%
- Human trafficking: 0.22%
- Humanitarian/Emergency work: 0.04%
- Information and communication technologies (ICTs): 2.46%
- Labour and workers’ rights: 2.55%
- Land rights: 0.18%
- LGB/LBTQI/Sexualities: 0.18%
- Microcredit/Microfinance: 1.07%
- Migration: 0.18%
- Other: 1.21%
- Peace building and violence against women in conflict/post-conflict: 9.65%
- Political participation: 7.50%
- Property law and housing rights: 1.47%
- Religion: 2.28%
- Reproductive rights and health (contraception, abortion, maternal health): 5.85%
- Sexual health (including HIV/AIDS): 7.15%
- Sexual rights: 8.04%
- Women in the media: 0.27%
- Women’s economic empowerment: 1.74%
- Women’s leadership and empowerment: 10.50%
Appendix 1B:

The Access Fund

The Access Fund is a critical component of the AWID Forum, as it ensures inclusive participation of key social movements, ensuring that resources alone do not determine access. The Access Fund covers costs including airfare, visas, accommodations, local transportation and in some cases registration. We focused on key constituencies such as sex workers, women with disabilities, indigenous women, grassroots women, LGBTQI, and young feminists.

In spite of challenging fundraising circumstances, we redoubled our resource mobilization efforts to increase the size of the Access Fund, and are proud to say that we offered **350 scholarships from 104 countries**. Importantly, 18% of the total delegates that attended the Forum were supported by the Access Fund.

Diversity is a central component of the Forum, and we worked hard to ensure that regions and constituencies that were under-represented in the past would be able to attend and participate effectively in the Forum. As a result, AWID focused on a constituency engagement and outreach strategy, part of which focused on the Access Fund as a means to contribute to the diversity of the Forum (Appendix 1A).

Feedback from Access Fund participants was extremely positive, as demonstrated by a selection of comments:

> Overall, the Access Fund is a great mechanism to ensure that women, especially from the South have a strong presence and meaningful say in the Forum and its processes. — Ana Mae Buenaventura-Dolleton, Philippines

> The process was clear and supportive. Thank you, could not have been able to attended were it not for the fund. — Njoki Njehu, Kenya

> The fund worked wonderfully and was inclusive of women from all sectors including sex workers I would like to see more minorities and women from poor areas  Peninah Mwangi, Kenya

> Primero debo agradecer la oportunidad, de permitirme dejar compartir y conversar mi realidad como mujer indígena. — Carmen Liliana Burgos, Argentina

> J'ai trouvé que le processus de Fonds d'accès a été très bien planifié. — Jacqueline Santos, Canada
We also received the following breakdown of feedback, the details of which will serve to improve future Forums and AWID’s learning about the process:

| Feedback |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Grateful/Very well organized (info, paperwork, support, etc) | 38% |
| Other | 15% |
| Make it more diverse (e.g., grassroots women, minorities, poor women, etc) | 10% |
| Better coordination/communication about reimbursements/refunds | 7% |
| Bringing more donors on board (e.g., government, private sector, etc) | 6% |
| Cover other expenses (e.g., per diems, incidentals, visa agents, registration fees, etc) | 5% |
| Communicate funding decisions earlier | 5% |
| Issues with registration, hotel room confirmations and shuttles | 5% |
| None / No | 7% |
| Don’t know | 3% |

*Figure 9: Access Fund Participants by Region (%)*
While we make every effort to understand the identities and key constituencies of the participants who apply to be a part of the Access Fund it is difficult for us to classify people if they do not self-classify. Based on the information provided, the key constituencies of the Access Fund are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francophone</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francophone, YFA</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassroots</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV+</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous, YFA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQI</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQI/YFA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Worker</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Worker, YFA</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHRD</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YFA</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YFA, LGBTQI</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francophone/Disability</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2:
2012 AWID Forum International Planning Committee

Planning for the 2012 International Forum on Women’s Rights and Development is spearheaded by an International Planning Committee (IPC) made up of renowned feminist thinkers and leaders from around the world.

Bénédicte Allaert  
Executive Director, WIDE  
Belgium

Corina Rodriguez Enriquez  
Coordinator, Gem-Lac (Grupo de Género y Macroeconomía de América Latina)  
Buenos Aires

Yvonne Jasmine Te Ruki Rangi o Tangaroa Underhill  
Director, Centre for Development Studies, University of Auckland  
Cook Island

Lydia Alpizar  
Executive Director, AWID  
Costa Rica/ Brazil

Françoise Mukuku Mwamba Malale  
National Coordinator, Si Jeunese Savait Democratic Republic of the Congo

Mariama Marjorie Williams Kamara  
Senior Fellow, South Centre  
Jamaica

Esther Wanjiku Mwaura Muiru  
National Coordinator, GROOTS  
Kenya

Lina Abou Habib  
Director, Collective for Research and Training-Action  
Lebanon

Kee Siew Min  
Women’s Rights Policy Coordinator, Association for Progressive Communications (APC)  
Malaysia

Marilyn Joy Waring  
Professor of Public Policy, AUT University  
New Zealand

Paola Beatriz González Rosales  
Vice president, Women’s Association for Feminist Studies (AMEF)  
Guatemala

Ekaete Judith Umoh  
Executive Director, Family-Centered Initiative for Challenged Persons  
Nigeria

Srilatha Batliwala  
Scholar Associate, AWID  
India

Ma. Victoria Ribargoso Raquiza  
Board Member, JASS  
Philippines

Anita Unni Nayar  
Executive Committee member, DAWN  
India/USA

Maria Yolanda Virginia Vargas Valente  
Program Coordinator, Flora Tristán  
Peru

Patricia Margaret O’Neill  
OECD - Gendernet  
New Zealand/ France

Naní Zulminarni  
National Coordinator / JASS-SEA Regional Coordinator  
Indonesia

Radhika Balakrishnan  
Executive Director, Center for Women’s Global Leadership  
India/USA

Ma. Victoria Lucía Corpuz  
Executive Director, Tebtebba Foundation  
Philippines

Wanda Hanna Nowicka  
Member of the Parliament  
Poland
Nicoleta Bitu  
Board Member, Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies  
Romania

Ana Turley  
Director of Communications and Information, AWID  
South Africa

Junya Yimprasert  
Coordinator, Action for People’s Democracy in Thailand  
Thailand

Hülya Gülbahar  
Represents Women Platform for Constitution, Anayasa Kadın Platformu (Women Platform for Constitution)  
Turkey

Sengul Akcar  
Board Member, Foundation for the Support of Women’s Work (FSWW)  
Turkey

Zeynep Göknıl Şanal  
Member, Baskent Kadin Platformu Dernegi (Capital City Women’s Platform)  
Turkey

Zozan Özgökçe  
Member, VAKAD (Van Kadin Derneği) Van Women’s Association  
Turkey

Diane Elson  
Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Essex  
United Kingdom

Alejandra Scampini  
Manager of Influencing Development Actors and Practices for Women’s Rights (IDEA), AWID  
Uruguay

Cindy Clark  
Director of Operations and Programs, AWID  
USA

Rosalee Coatlicue Gonzalez  
Region Co-Coordinator of the ENLACE, International Forum of Indigenous Women (FIMI)/Continental Network of Indigenous Women of the Americas (ENLACE)  
USA

Rosalind Pollack Petchesky  
Distinguished Professor, Hunter College  
USA

Everjoice Jeketa Win  
Head of Women’s Rights, Oxfam-Canada  
Zimbabwe/South Africa
Appendix 3: Media Coverage

Articles

2,500 women activists travel to İstanbul for AWID forum
A Turkish news website that discusses opening of AWID Forum. Highlights examples from Ipek on the care economy in Turkey and with Mahnaz Afkhami (WLP) on the MENA breakout session.

A Global Forum
http://www.todayss zaman.com/columnist-278363-a-global-forum.html
Opinion piece on the lack of media coverage on the Forum in Turkey, stating that any event to do with women's rights is seen as irrelevant to the broader public. Discusses the importance of increasing women's capacity on economic matters. Highlights Arab uprising and importance of secular and religious women working together. Concludes that although the Forum had a heavy agenda, it allowed participants to recharge and gain renewed enthusiasm.

Who Is The Authentic Arab Woman?
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shahnaz-taplinchinoy/who-is-the-authentic-arab_b_1475278.html?ref=fb&src=sp&mimi=1 economic
Article that intends to discuss 'who is the authentic Arab woman?' and delves into religious fundamentalism and quotes from AWID's publication. Highlights reconnecting with her close friends and activists-Muslim women from Malaysia and Afghanistan, and Los Angeles at the Forum- who inspire her. Includes a brief anecdote about how activist from Afghanistan was close to a recent bomb blast, but that despite her fears she came to the Forum saying "I have to go on".

Why Economic Justice Is Central to LGBT Rights
The author, a Fordham Law Professor, frames the article that the Forum explored important links between economic rights, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights. Gives statistics and examples of her work researching the links between transgender women and economic exclusion.

Zainah Anwar: Arab Spring Opens Window of Opportunity for Women In Mideal
Author profiles Zainah Anwar, a leading Malaysian social activist and intellectual, on Islam and opportunities for women. States that a window of opportunity has opened up in the Arab Spring, and discusses her personal experience with Islam and fighting for an Anti-Domestic Law in Malaysia. Suggests that laws are more progressive in Turkey (this is before recent abortion campaign).

Over 2,000 Women's Rights Activists March for Economic Power
Discusses March at end of Forum that demanded for domestic labour to be recognized. Includes quotes on learnings at the Forum and in Turkey specifically on issues of violence against women and the new constitution.

Feminist Economics 101
In lead up to Forum, unpacks the term economy and the different types of power that influence economic development including social power and gender power structures, continues on to describe what transformative power would entail (especially in the context for women.)

A Brutal Manifestation Of Patriarchy
Article written by Sunila, WHRD, in lead up to Forum. Discusses linkages between militarism, violence and conflict and women's role in anti-war actions, examining both the portrayal of women as victims and their agency. Discusses 1325 UN Resolution and the role of feminist discourse with multiple identities evolving in the context of identity politics (largely patriarchal). Would like at the Forum to develop multifaceted vision of 'peace' that will encompass all human rights.

At the 12th AWID International Forum, A Powerful Call for a More Equitable Economic System
http://www.themaidennews.com/articles/1309-a-call-for-economic-justice
Glowing review of Forum by Canadian feminist that delves into the Forum - examining why to her it was so special and why the economy is a women's issue. Discusses alternatives such as 'time poverty' and income poverty, and alternatives that are grassroot led such as lending circles (in contrast to microlend). Discusses aspects of the Funders Forum, and the impact of the financial crisis on women's funding. Concludes with remarks from partners (grassroots and NGO organizations from Africa). They reported they felt full, empowered, and inspired, and said that there was a lot more work ahead of us.
Yemen Women Use Digital Tech to Improve Society with ‘Safe Streets’
http://womennewsnetwork.net/2012/05/03/yemen-women-use-digital-tech/
Article on sexual harrassment in Yemen and how women advocates in Yemen are pushngdigital tech as a means to improve society and gain human rights. With specific reference to the Forum, author describes one advocate who’s goal has been to train over 200 women to become ‘experts’ in using open source online digital publishing tools as they become active voices for their communities using digital cyber-activism.

Women of the World Unite for Rights
Article written by Jennifer Hattam stating that recent political and economic upheavals have not been kind to women, it is a time for transformation (Mariama Williams.) Author interviews Lydia and Lina on the economic crisis and that amidst these crises there are pockets of optimism. Speaks about the importance of choosing Istanbul as a venue for solidarity with the MENA region, and that culture relativism cannot be an excuse. Illustrates the backlash against women against women activists with WHRD tribute.

Africa: Economic Issues Dominate AWID Forum
Reflecting on Day 1 African author suggests that the theme of the Forum is aptly named and focuses in her opinion on the relevant questions that were asked on day 1 and the issues she is looking forward to unpacking in the following days, including the need for feminists to rethink and reconsider approaches because of the high levels of unemployment, and explore alternative frameworks.

World: UN Women at the AWID Conference in Istanbul
Article written by UN Women on their participation at the Forum, quotes heavily from Lakshmi Puri who stressed the need for a unified process (sustainable development goals and post MDG), need for greater involvement and full participation of women.

The Word on Women: Lesbians Strive to End Economic, Social Discrimination
http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/blogs-the-word-on-women/lesbians-strive-to-end-economic-social-discrimination
Argues that lesbians tend to have a harder time economically illustrated by several examples in Kyrgyzstan and Nambia etc. Also, lists strategies and approaches being developed to address the economic problems faced by lesbians, mentions AWID’s code of conduct stating that Cape Town there were several incidents related to homophobia but AWID took steps to refrain from such behaviour at this Forum.

UN Women Warns of Funding Gaps Ahead
Article on UN Women’s lack of funding for the second year in a row because of the financial crisis. Article provides critiques on UN Women’s lack of progress with quotes from Charlotte Bunch and Alexandra Curtis.

Digital Security Becomes Key Concern for Women Rights Activists
http://12-campaign-archive2.com/?u=bf0cc40d17473b6cbb94a146d&id=62589dc099e=5290be8ec4
Discusses pre Forum meeting ‘Connect Your Rights! Global Strategic Dialogue,’ on why digital security is a serious feminist issue. Drafted a framework at the Forum to work collaboratively on a Feminist framework of digital security addressing violence against women, technical infrastructure and the the connection between the online and offline worlds and privacy.

Dispatches From AWID 2012: Women’s Land Rights Debate Rolls On
http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/article/2012/04/19/on-point-at-awid-forum-women’s-land-rights-debate-rolls-on
Focuses on women’s access to land as a key cornerstone to women achieving their rights. To do that, although legal frameworks are imp it is important to invest in grassroots women’s organizing, as GROOTS Kenya watchdog groups have achieved. Gives further details on different eras of land disposession, tensions of customary law, and that the struggle for land rights is not confined to the Global South

Dispatches from AWID 2012: Queer Economics
http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/article/2012/04/21/dispatches-from-awid-2012-queer-economics
Article focuses on the panel “Highlighting the InterSEXions: Sexuality, economy, and LBGT Rights,” at which queer rights advocates and researchers from the United States, Uganda, and the Philippines spoke about specific ways in which hetero-normative and capitalist, patriarchal society keeps the GLBTQ community down, and largely poor.

Dispatches from AWID 2012: A Day in the Life of a Sex Worker
Article is a review of a session on sex work at the Forum led by the Empower Foundation. Focusing on an interactive game, participants learned that sex work is work, and that it is a complex issue that they are vulnerable in ways most of us do not even consider – especially where they lack legal protection or regulation in most parts of the world. Gives several examples, but also states that the game did not get into trafficking and coercion which are real issues.

Dispatches from AWID 2012: The New World War? Fundamentalism vs. Human Rights
Article is a review of AWID’s CF session on challenging religious fundamentalism, although participants stated that religion is eroding women’s human rights illustrated by examples with the Catholic Church etc. there were participants who stated it was important to note that in certain religious countries (i.e. Malaysia) religion is part and parcel of individual identities, denying or misunderstanding that role can actually hamper effective human rights work

Dispatches from AWID 2012: Arab Spring Becomes a Chill for Women, But The Organizing Continues
http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/article/2012/04/20/dispatches-from-awid-2012-arab-spring-becomes-chill-women
Article reviews AWID’s session, “Bringing Gender to the Streets: Young women amidst the Arab uprisings,” where young women from Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon,
and Yemen discussed both the specifics of campaigns they’d led to increase the recognition of women’s rights, and also about how women in the Arab world have largely been betrayed by the democratic movements of which they helped ensure the success (by the Global and Western media as the Arab Spring).

Dispatches From AWID 2012: Burmese Women’s Groups to World: Hold the Applause http://www.genderit.org/node/3618

Article focuses on the session “Women Resisting Militarized Development in Burma,” where despite Aung San Suu Kyi being released, women spoke frankly of the persistent culture of fear in Burma for women and ethnic minorities (as illustrated by the fact that they would only let their name be published not their picture.) Focused on military’s manipulation of natural resources (dam building and gas pipeline) and foreign investments that are without regard for how women and minorities are being treated.


50% of the 99%

Article focuses on WLP’s participation at the Forum within the context of the situation of women in the MENA region Women who have played central roles in the uprisings are now feeling disconnected and made invisible. Quotes from WLP President and Chair, speak to the theme that “democracy without gender policy is invisible. Quotes from WLP President and Chair, speak to the theme that “democracy without gender policy is invisible.”

AWID Forum: Women’s Rights in the Arab World and Gender Budgeting On Focus http://www.genderit.org/node/3618

The article focuses on women’s right in the the MENA region and gender budgeting. Quotes on MENA region are similar to article above. Discusses gender budgeting as an effective tool - in over 100 countries- and importance of grassroots women being involved. Finally concludes with the importance of the women working at the international level and grassroots level to connect, and the need to listen to implement women’s human rights.

AWID Forum: Women’s Rights in the Arab World and Gender Budgeting On Focus http://www.genderit.org/node/3618

Internet and Women’s Rights: How Do They Relate to Economic Justice? http://www.genderit.org/node/3618

Editorial on the importance of feminist politics and the internet. Discusses opportunities presented for women's organizing ranging from online mapping of street harassment, documenting video testimonies of women or producing powerful infographics, and the importance for women to be at the decision making table about decisions governing the internet.

Why the Women’s Rights Movement Must Listen to Sex Workers http://www.rhrealitycheck.org/print/19676

Article on sex workers at the Forum, disputing the notion of victimhood, the link between sex work and work and the importance of solidarity. Quotes heavily from Kaythi Win’s plenary speech re: fear of being rescued, need for women’s movement to speak up and out against the extremists. “Nothing about us, without us”.

Delegation of Activists from the MENA Region Participate at 12th AWID Forum http://www.el-karama.org/content/delegation-activists-mena-region-participate-12th-awid-forum

Article written about delegation of youth activists from MENA region sponsored by HIVOS. Discusses in depth session priorities: justice to be served post-war, a call for feminist Arab Spring, importance of holding future leaders accountable. A need for a parallel revolution for women’s rights- “a behavioral and cultural change is needed” regarding sexual harassment and tradition being used to justify violations of human rights.


Plenary speech by Kaythi Win on sex work: argues sex work is work, sex workers are not victims, no need to be rescued- does more harm than good and they live in daily fear of being rescued, not violence from their clients. Asks mainstream women’s movement to not stand silently by as war on trafficking is turned into war on sex workers.


Article is on members of Soroptimist International attending the Forum, explaining it was a positive experience highlighting particular sessions they liked “Feminist Economic Toolbox Sessions”, screening of Films, M&E workshop, WHRD tribute.


Karat Newsletter: content on page 2 focuses on presentation at Forum “Social and economic rights of marginalized women in Central Eastern Europe and Central Asia” discussing the transition and move from central planned to free market economy, which ended up marginalizing women over the control over resources and decision making (detailed experiences from Albania,Kyrgyzstan, Poland). Page 3, “WIDE Plus: How the European crisis influences the women’s lives” overview from Greece, Italy and Spain shared their experiences on how the governments’ austerity measures have dramatically impacted the women’s livelihoods and rights.

Insights from this year’s AWID Forum on Women’s Rights and Development http://www.actionaid.org.uk/100621/blog.html?article=4138

Insights from a Tax Justice Campaigner, on Gita’s presentation, and sessions on Tax Justice. How government’s raise taxes, and subsequently how they
are spent has repercussions for gender equality, gives example of VAT and how women living in poverty pay a disproportionate amount of their income, opportunity for government to put exemptions in place to make it fair.

Global Initiative – ESCR Discusses Women's Land Rights at AWID Forum
http://www.mamacash.org/page.php?id=3067&ezine=3053
Global initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights announcement that they attended the Forum, and states that they participated in a panel Transforming Economic Power through Women’s Land Rights, with specific country experiences of Uganda, Kenya and Sri Lanka to show how women’s land and property rights have been violated as a result of discriminatory customary practices, as well as the application of 'gender blind' land policies.

FTF at the AWID Forum
http://feministtasksforce.org/2012/04/19/ftf-at-the-awid-forum/
Overview of the first plenary (highlighting Gita’s presentation) and announcement of what sessions delegation is participating in.

WOCAN shares its Experience on Women’s Leadership and Women’s Leadership Circles in AWID Side Event with OXFAM International in Istanbul, Turkey
WOCAN's participation at the session "Women Transforming the Food System and Advancing Their Rights: Sharing practical applications of principles and tools". Presenter spoke about the need to strengthen rural women's leadership to accelerate growth, also shared experience on Women's Leadership Circle (WLC), a national level platform created by WOCAN for women decision makers to listen and interact directly with rural women leaders to influence policies.

AWID Forum 2012: Screening of Women's Initiatives' documentaries
Women's initiatives for Gender Justice describe the films they are screening at the Forum on conflict and post conflict environment.

Economics of Domestic Violence at AWID Forum
http://rights4change.org/index.php?id=39&PHPSESSID=6fc5ba3c7d67f3e45b50c839163276e7d6
Rights for Change describes session on economics of domestic violence (pre announcement).

AWID: Sharing Voices and Perspectives On Women
Participation of youth activists from Karama and Hivos delegation joint reflections- in their own words, Provides reflections on MENA sessions (similar to blog above on their participation) Provides outcomes and recommendations to AWID at the end (5 points).

AWID 2012: Development From a Feminist Perspective
YWCA program officer reflects on the term economics and development and the need to link to gender justice, quotes report from Where is the money for women’s rights, and suggests alternatives ‘vivir concept’ Ended with a quote by herself “In addition to creating a safe space for young and older feminists to reflect and revisit the concepts of economic power and development, the AWID Forum provided a strategic environment for women to strategise around the United Nations Secretary General's proposal to hold a fifth World Conference on Women”.

Why To Invest In Peace?
http://www.lixalocal.org/pdf/boletinas%20ingles/Boletina%20abril%202012.pdf
WILPF Colombia reflections on the Forum- particularly on peace, political power and displacement. Includes great quotes about what the space meant to them, and lists proposals that were created at the Forum.

War Is An International Business
President of WILPF- DRC states "War is an international business" presents at the Forum that we must challenge the increasingly dominant political economy of war and militarism. Also explains how Director traveled to Cairo after the Forum for work, energized by the Forum, about the role of women in post-revolutionary Egypt.

Interfaith Perspectives on Religious Fundamentalisms and Women’s Rights
http://learningpartnership.org/lib/interfaith-religious-fundamentalisms-women-s-rights
Analysis on session that WLP organized “Interfaith Perspectives on Religious Fundamentalisms and Women’s Rights” commenting on fundamentalist groups, their recent rise in power, the values they hold, and their view of women’s “appropriate” role in family and society. They emphasized the need for a concerted international effort by those seeking to advance women’s rights and civil liberties to counter the negative impact of the fundamentalist position on gender equality.

Women’s Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights Resisting Backlash
http://www.learningpartnership.org/lib/women-rights-transitions-democracy-okaid
WLPs analysis of Pre - Forum meeting quite a few points raised but grouped under main themes- women were key in the revolutions but are invisible now, democracy without gender justice is impossible, constitutions and international docs (CEDAW) have to embody equality as one of key concepts (and in implementation), among women's groups there is an absence of consensus on, and a clear and direct articulation of, a unifying vision of what kind of society they would like to participate in forming etc. Discusses strategies that worked: identifying and occupying space in transitional democracy, use the media etc, support women to become religious literate etc. (lists 10 strategies total)

Economic Power Isn’t Just About Money, It’s About Building Relationships
http://mamacash.org/page.php?id=3078&ezine=3053
Mama Cash's analysis of the Forum calling it an" important space for peer learning and feminist and women’s rights networking." Gives examples of their grantees participation (Zoe on plenary) and how the Forum was an inclusive space. Continues with analysis
of sessions they organized including RM Hub which they were excited about calling it a rare opportunity for donors and grantees to be in one room. Last 2 paragraphs talk about how the Forum recharged Mama Cash and how the Forum was inspiring.

**Investing In Girls and Young Women vs. Strategies To Support Young Feminist Activism: Is There A Difference?**
http://youngfeministfund.org/2012/05/reflections-from-the-2012-awid-forum/

Reflections from Amina on the session on funding Young Feminists. Insightful comments from her and the audience with rich quotes about the importance of investing in young feminists and movement-building initiatives and ultimately investing in structural change that will generate long-term change in the lives of young people.

**KULU at the 12th International AWID Forum**
http://www.wmnetwork.org/2012/03/12%2C%2BA-foro-internacional-de-awid-transformando-el-poder-economico-para-avanzar-los-derechos-de-las-mujeres-y-la-justicia/

Reflections from Filomenita Mongaya Høgsholm on the Forum from AWID’s extensive programme, a minor critique of the WIDE session that didn’t allow participants to participate, comments on plenary presentations, Marta Benavides on the movement for Sustainable Peace working for social transformation through culture. Ends with Gitá’s quote and that she came to learn that even revolutions – as in the Arab spring - does not guarantee rights.

**CRTD. A at the AWID Forum:**
http://www.wmnetwork.org/2012/03/12%2C%2BA-foro-internacional-de-awid-transformando-el-poder-economico-para-avanzar-los-derechos-de-las-mujeres-y-la-justicia/

The role of Collective for Research and Training on Development – Action(focus on MENA) at the Forum. Notes on Education Hub session they participated on and that speakers emphasized the need for solidarity and networking not only with and between national partners, but also among women’s rights defenders worldwide; question of resources was also heavily debated. At another session (RM Hub) example of collective advocacy with case study examples from the MENA region. Outlined strategies for women to become visible and part of the constitutional process. Ended that she now feels stronger then ever having coming to the Forum.

**Videos**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6e6WdEkfM1

CITIGEN at AWID forum 2012
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ana_c71zn4&feature=related

AWID 12 Forum
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuLzRoG8W7w&feature=share

When I think feminism... /RESURJ Panel @ AWID Forum 2012/
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8S7jmeKeYo

Kaythi Win speech at AWID forum in Istanbul 2012
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NqCfo3Q9bc

Wieke & The Power of Pleasure @ AWID Forum 2012
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQBlhDv6H_A

Wieke Vink @ AWID Forum 2012.MP4
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aje_V9zbFTU

**Spanish Language Media**

**Los grandes medios**

Las mujeres y la economía

La internacional feminista

Una pregunta sobre Argentina

Seis mujeres, seis historias

**Los medios alternativos**

Resumen del Foro AWID – Estambul, Turquía
http://conjunciones.com/2012/05/07/resumen-del-foro-awid-estambul-turquia/

Inicio XII Foro Internacional AWID
http://www.cimacnoticias.com.mx/s/12041910-Inicio-XII-Foro-int.49500.0.html

Foro de AWID: Mujeres Árabes y Presupuesto de Género Concentraron Atención
http://www.sociedad.org/indices/14883

Las mujeres, la crisis y la postcrisis

ESCRIBANAS en Turquía en el Foro de AWID

**La sociedad civil**

Petateras en el 12º Foro Internacional de AWID, 19 y el 22 de abril de 2012 en Estambul, Turquía
http://www.petateras.org/petateras_reunion_awid.htm

Intermón Oxfam participa en el Foro 2012 AWID

Actividades incentivan la participación de jóvenes feministas en el Foro Awid 2012

12º Foro internacional de AWID
http://www.avariza.co/index.shtml?x=1688676

Inicio XII Foro Internacional AWID
http://www.expresioncanpeche.com/component/conten t/article7-notas-nacionales/15465-inicia-xii-foro-internacional-awid.html

Mundo: Mujeres se preparan para Foro Awid 2012 en Turquía
http://www.prensaindependega.org.mx/?q=content/mundo-mujeres-se-preparan-para-foro-awid-2012-en-turqu%3C%3D

12º Foro Internacional de AWID: Transformando el poder económico para avanzar los derechos de las mujeres y la justicia
http://www.wm-network.org/2012/03/12%2C%2BA-foro-internacional-de-awid-transformando-el-poder-economico-para-avanzar-los-derechos-de-las-mujeres-y-la-justicia/
Lubertino Expone en el 12 Foro de AWID en Turquía sobre la Trata de Mujeres en Latinoamérica

12º Foro Internacional de AWID: Transformando el Poder Económico para Avanzar los Derechos de las Mujeres y la Justicia.
http://www.uam.es/ss/Satellite/en/1242650817892/1242656913798/evento/evento/12%2CBA_Foro_Internacional_de_AWID:_Transformando_el_Poder_Economico_para_Avanzar_los_Derechos_de_las_Mujeres_y_la_Justicia/transformando_el_poder_economico_para_avanzar_los_derechos_de_las_mujeres_y_la_justicia

Videos
awid Forum 2012 Transformando el poder económico
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4rS6xK8TjA
Reposted AWID voxpops
http://www.frequency.com/video/qui-has-aprendido-hasta-ahora-en-el-foro/43460269

Las fotos
Foto-Reportaje: Mujeres participantes en el Foro de AWID marcharon en las calles de Estambul
http://www.petateras.org/awid_fotoreportaje.htm

French Language Media

Les médias grand public
Genre en Action passe à TéléSud : AWID et l’économie sous le feu des projecteurs
http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article8915

La société civile
APC au 12ième Forum International de l’AWID
http://www.apc.org/fr/news/apc-au-12ieme-forum-international-de-lawid

12e Forum sur les droits de la femme et le développement
http://www.francophonie.org/12e-Forum-de-l-AWID-Droits-des.html?var_recherche=forum%20de%20l%20AWID

La FIDPH au Forum international de l’AWID « International Forum on Women’s Rights and Development » en turquie

Féministes sur la route de (la) « soi »
http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article8935

Communiqué de presse genre en action - istanbul : le genre francophone s’invite
http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article8885

Message de solidarité du forum d’awid à istanbul (turquie) - femmes du mali
http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article8916

Repenser les idées sur travail en partant d’une perspective féministe
http://www.genreenaction.net/IMG/pdf/Presentation_Perspectives_feministes_sur_le_travail.pdf
Blogs

Check out the GenderIT.org Feminist Talks @ AWID Forum!
http://www.worldpulse.com/node/52123

Several blogs related to IT and gender at the Forum.
1. A blog critical of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Caucus, "we need to get past this talk. We need to sit down and mobilize...we need to begin to take action."
2. A focus on ICT's and the need for more feminists to be aware that this is a 'strategic feminist's issue' as it is reproducing power imbalances, critiques facebook and youtube as liberation technologies.
3. 'Advocating for a Revolutionary Consciousness' focuses on identity politics illustrated by a discussion of migration and representation at the AWID Forum.
4. 'Last Rescue in Siam: A comedy about anti-trafficking raids in Thailand' focuses on the presentation made by sex workers at the Forum and says that the use of electronic media has allowed them to go further. Offers a critique of anti-trafficking efforts.
5. "Thinking about gender and technology" is devoted to a) social media and privacy; b) rape myths and tweeting; and c) armchair activists. A discussion on the South African rape video that went viral.
6. "Filtered by the state, inspired by Gita Sen focuses on quotes about Gita Sen linking them to the session "Commodification of knowledge: how increasing access and availability of the internet had transformed the way knowledge is produced and shared." 

2012 AWID Forum
http://www.worldpulse.com/taxonomy/term/17056

Links to several blogs (including the GenderIT blogs).
1. "AWID Chronicles Day 1" GenderIT Blogger on her positive AWID Forum experience "What an amazing experience. I am so glad to be part of all this, I feel so empowered. Sometimes I just wish that the world was AWID ;-)" Discusses events she liked including the plenary, importance of solidarity roundtables, and film screening on Passionate Politics on Charlotte Bunch, "inspirational" and the book reading on queer Arab women's stories.
2. "AWID Reflections" A 17 year-old from Ethiopia, (an AJWS grantee and part of Nike Grassroots Girls Initiatives) gives her reflections on the positive experience at the AWID Forum; lessons learned about needing to be inclusive; use digital media; the importance of sustainability and that investing in girls is important. Quotes on Forum being a safe space and thinking and working collectively.
3. "Using Technology for Feminist Action" A short blog on how the author came out of the FTX session more cautious and that technology when used for social change can "break barriers and provide gender justice".

GenderIT.org @ 12th AWID Forum 2012
http://www.genderit.org/category/discussion-theme/genderitorg-12th-awid-forum-2012

Nine blog links (some already reviewed above) by Gender IT. One blog focuses on the commodification of knowledge, another on ad campaigns, and another on how the tree by Ece gave the author hope, and committed to change. Finally, there is a review of ESCRIBANA and its creative way to harness power-politics of communications.

A Babysitter's Diary: Power and Hope in the Age of Neoliberalism
http://www.oxfamblogs.org/philippines/?p=2049

A transgender woman from Oxfam (media officer) who took two meetings of the Sex activists to Istanbul reflects on the AWID Forum themes and meaning, deconstructing economic power and applying Gita Sen and Marilyn Waring's presentations. Links the work the two grassroots women from the Philippines did to the theme and says they felt energized and renewed and how the Forum helped to strengthen their individual power.

Revolutionary Women at the AWID Forum
http://denebsumbol.wordpress.com/2012/05/03/revolutionary-women-at-the-awid-conference/

A filmmaker reflects on the Forum, discussing the session she presented on an alternative money and trading systems in difficult financial times, and how she realized that many of the issues she thought were endemic are actually quite global. She provides good quotes from participants, on religious fundamentalism and the struggles in Egypt.

Adventures at the 12th AWID Forum
http://www.akilidada.org/2012/05/09/adventures-at-the-12th-awid-forum/

FRIDA adviser provides brief reflections of each of the days. She focuses on 3 sessions - Visualizing women's empowerment - using film as activism, Where is the money for women's rights, and making the case to support young feminists "supporting young feminists goes beyond investing in individuals to an ideology and a movement that has a chance at longevity. The current drumbeat for investing in girls may risk promoting stereotypes and can continue negative cycles for women."

Possibility of a 5th UN World Conference on Women in 2015
http://wo-meninistanbul.blogspot.com/2012/05/possibility-of-5th-wn-conference.html

Hivos program officer, Ireen comments on the possibility of a 5th world conference on women in 2015. States that AWID Forum participants debated pros and cons of this suggestion, and if a conference were to take place there is a need to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and adequate resourcing of this agenda. Continues with critiques of holding the UN conference.

The Power of Pleasure
http://storify.com/PamojaUK/the-power-of-pleasure

A series of Twitter feeds on the Power of Pleasure, all short quotes about the need to discuss sexuality and pleasure, many taboos surrounding it and part of our disempowerment

AWID 2012 Forum Women In Development
Conference: Nazar Değmesin (May the Evil Eye Not Touch Her)

Ece’s blog on the installation she created, explains how she made it, why she made it, the importance of it and the need for change. In her words the installation "This interactive installation wishes women’s rights advocates safety on their journey and allows them to engage in a dialogue with women everywhere, from different nations.
and backgrounds, in the spirit of honoring and supporting each other’s struggles”.

An Ethiopian Girl’s Journey to Build a Better World
http://blogs.ajws.org/blog/2012/05/03/an-ethiopian-girls-journey-to-build-a-better-world/
A blog that is the same as above from Nike Foundation and JeCDO on young activist supported to attend the Forum. AJWS is hosting her blog on their site because they supported her to attend

A Woman Is A Mother — And More
http://www.osisa.org/womens-rights/blog/a-woman-is-a-mother—and-more
Reflections, after attending the Forum, from a Filippino grassroots leader on movement building and food security (supported by Oxfam)

Keeping the Show on the Road – At AWID and Beyond
http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/blog/2012/04/awid-and-beyond
Blog post from Gender and Development on her not attending, she was sad to miss it

Saluting Domestic Workers
http://www.osisa.org/womens-rights/blog/saluting-domestic-workers
Young African woman’s reflections on not understanding the language of economics necessarily but passionate regarding issues for domestic workers: “These are the women who make sure that a Minister of Finance somewhere has his shirt ironed, his shoes polished...now tell me, how are these women not contributing to the economies and smooth running of their respective countries?”.

AWID Forum 2012- Istanbul
Armenian woman listed sessions she enjoyed.

AWID International Forum
http://globalgoodspartners.wordpress.com/2012/04/28/awid-international-forum/
Author is from Global Goods Partners and details who they met, why she enjoyed their presentations and the solidarity she felt with them.

AWID- Tomorrow is Earth Day at AWID!
http://www.wedo.org/blog/awid-day-4-earth-day-at-awid
Announcement from WEDO that it is Earth Day and they are excited to be participating at AWID.

Anecdote from the AWID Forum
Anecdote from the AWID Forum by Marjan Wijers, provides moving thought on solidarity with other women, and tells a really great and funny twist on a story about sex workers being ‘saved’ told by a participant.

Feminists Have Made Sex Workers’ Work So Much More Difficult
Post by an employee at Mama Cash on sex workers and how feminists are the force they need to fight not traditional fundamentalists etc. Discusses launch of Red Umbrella Fund for sex workers.

Fear and Economic Power at AWID
http://www.osisa.org/womens-rights/blog/fear-and-economic-power-awid
Discusses Gita Sen’s quote and discusses the session she enjoyed Economic Solidarity: Raising funds and awareness for feminist activism through resource sharing.

Welcome to Turkish Tuesday – 24 April 2012
http://feminastu.org/tag/awid-forum-2012/
Australian feminist blog which comments on their feminist role models from the Forum, Jessica Horn, Radhika, and Hester Eisenstein.

AWID Forum: Where are the Propositions?
http://www.thefword.org.uk/blog/2012/04/awid_forum_wher
UK blogger, comments on rich analytical content available but hasn’t heard prospects for making change. What ideas do people have about “how” to transform things?

Superhuman Social Activists: They Don’t Need to Eat, Pay Rent or Any of Those Boring Things
http://feminastu.org.uk/2012/04/22/superhuman-social-activists-they-don’t-need-to-eat-pay-rent-or-any-of-those-boring-things/
Australian blogger reflecting on One in Nine campaign in South Africa and links it to the need to pay activists.

AWID Forum: On Feminist Movements
http://www.thefword.org.uk/blog/2012/04/awid_forum_move
UK blogger, comments on BFEMO session and highlights Maria’s presentation and Srilatha who “challenged us to think about the ways women participate in movements,” and that sometimes they are used as protest fodder”, also distinguished between organizations and movements.

AWID 12th Forum 2012
http://www.thefword.org.uk/blog/2012/04/awid_12th_forum
UK young blogger, enjoys coming to Forums and says that AWID ... “They have made all the possible arrangements to ensure women with disabilities, HIV/AIDS have safe spaces. AWID forums have a general feel about them. They generally include a wellness centre which includes free massages! They strive to make this a space to re-energise and to spark the creativity. I have to be honest, I’ve been feeling rather stagnant lately with ideas but I’m just flowing with new ideas now.

Generations of Feminism: A Reflection on AWID 2012
http://participationpower.wordpress.com/tag/awid/
Masters student at IDS critiques the Forum re: hierarchy among generations, thinks that young feminists could have been given a more central role, and felt patronized by older feminists among others.

Social Media for Social Change
http://www.tumblr.com/tagged/awid
Comments on session organized by WLP and the use of Twitter to link up with partners, be part of a global conversation with like minded people and organisations, advocate for women’s rights and gender equality and build a constituency with example from Kyrgyzstan, also gives example of SEWA Radio in India and the power of popular education.
Feminist Conversations On Caribbean Life - Reflections on the 2012 AWID Forum
Caribbean activist writes about her journey attending the AWID Forum, recognizing that the Caribbean represents only 1% of Forum participants she felt privileged to be there but that "I am still personally grappling with how small this circle is, how elitist it often seems and how though in many, many ways inclusive it still remains exclusionary". She participated in KrikKraxx session she was "also reminded of the purpose of our collective presence there: to use the AWID forum to foster regional feminist mobilisation". Discusses follow up activity that came out as a result of the Forum a meeting called: "Catch A Fire: New Generation Caribbean Feminist Grounding".

Transforming Economic Power, Transforming Ourselves
http://womensearthalliance.blogspot.com/2012/05/transforming-economic-power.html
Rucha Chitnis provides excerpts of key presentations and quotes from the Forum.

Sisters in Istanbul: Some Reflections from the AWID Forum
Israeli activist discusses the importance of having the Forum in Turkey for MENA region and reflects on the use of technology and appropriating knowledge (power), discussing lessons learned from those sessions.

Reflections from AWID 2012 Forum: Carole Shaw
Reflections on the 30th Anniversary party and the people attending the Forum, "spirit of sisterhood was very obvious and strong".

Sex Workers at AWID Reject Feminist Fundamentalism
http://www.lauraagustin.com/sisters-at-awid-reject-feminist-fundamentalism
Anthropologist who is an ally of the sex workers movement, close links to APSNW, displays Kaythi’s speech and talks about the session she participated in and how she emphasises that sex workers want power, the taking power, making decisions even when presented with few options.

Bargain Basement Shopping In The Information Society
http://www.genderit.org/node/3616
Explains the Commodification of Knowledge that APC put on, describing the speakers points and discussing piracy, mining data.

Feminist Economics 101
http://guyanagroove.blogspot.com/2012/05/feminist-economics-101.html
Columnist from Guyana describes coming to Istanbul, hopes and dreams. Relevant quote: This conference has inspired me to believe that a global Sisterhood is not only a possibility, but to understand that it already exists. While working on women’s issues in Guyana, one can be so focused on important local issues (like the fact that Top Cop Henry Greene may actually get his job back, after dodging a rape charge) it is easy to lose sight of the larger global picture.

French Language Blogs
Lancement du Forum de l’AWID!
Les femmes à l’assaut de l’économie!
http://www.egalite-infos.fr/2012/04/20/les-femmes-a-lassaut-de-leconomie/
La santé des femmes, un investissement rentable ?
http://www.egalite-infos.fr/2012/04/30/la-sante-des-femmes-un-investissement-rentable/
« Nous ne sommes pas là pour faire le café ! »
http://www.egalite-infos.fr/2012/04/27/%C2%A9-nous-ne-
sommes-pas-la-pour-faire-le-cafe-%C2%BB/
Le wi-fi en boîtes de conserve
http://www.egalite-infos.fr/2012/04/27/le-wi-fi-en-boites-de-
conserve/
Des pistes de réflexion féministe pour une autre économie
http://www.egalite-infos.fr/2012/04/24/des-pistes-de-reflexion-feministe-pour-une-autre-economie/
Démocratie et égalité dans la région du mena, ça discute fort !
http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article8912
L’abolitionnisme essentialiste, l’émancipation par la prostitution, des clientes pour des travailleurs de sexe… – des notions qui interrogent
http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article8941
« Accès et contrôle des ressources » : de quelles ressources parle-t-on ?
http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article8940

Spanish Language Blogs
Globalizar la lucha: “Jin, Jiyan, Azadi” (Mujeres. Vida. Libertad)
http://blogs.oxfam.org/es/blog/12-04-27-globalizar-la-lucha-jin-
jiyan-azadi-mujeres-vida-libertad
Videos de Matra en Foro AWID 2012 en Estambul,
Turquía
http://proyectomatria.blogspot.com.ar/p/videos-de-matia-en-
foro-awid-2012-en.html
Las mujeres ante el poder: cambian las agendas, la injusticia persiste
http://www.genderit.org/es/feminist-talk/las-mujeres-ante-el-
poder-cambian-las-agendas-la-injusticia-persiste-0
12º Foro Internacional de AWID Sobre Derechos de las Mujeres y el Desarrollo
http://laestelanamia.blogspot.com.es/2012/04/12-foro-
internacional-de-awid-sobre.html
Conversaciones Feministas en el Foro de AWID: ¿Por qué existen las copias “pirata” de productos culturales?
http://www.apc.org/es/blog/conversaciones-feministas-en-el-
foro-de-awid-%C2%BPr
XII Foro Internacional de AWID
http://carteblang.blogspot.com.es/2012/04/xii-foro-internacional-
awid-istanbul.html

AWID 2012 Forum Evaluation Report 77
Announcements and Flyers

Women’s Rights to be Discussed at Istanbul Forum
A Turkish website that announces the Forum will be taking place using AWID material (written about the Forum.) Also includes a list of expected attendees.

Women Rights, Gender Discussed In Istanbul
Discusses goal of the Forum with quotes from opening plenary speeches.

Istanbul to Host International Forum On Women’s Rights
http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/102717/Istanbul_to_host_international_forum_on_womens_rights
Report on the Forum that took place, relevant quote is “The event brought colleagues and friends together to dialogue, assess, network, celebrate and share knowledge, perspectives and friendship, in a safe space for collective thinking and strategising”.

The Revolution Should be Feminised
http://www.stabroeknews.com/2012/features/04/28/the-revolution-should-be-feminised
This article is by subscription but introduction suggests it is a personal experience written from perspective of a Guyanan activist who discusses the tshirts at the Forum that state “The Revolution Should Be Feminised”.

Reports from the 12th Association for Women’s Rights In Development (AWID) Forum
Announcement on the Forum that took place, relevant quote is “The event brought colleagues and friends together to dialogue, assess, network, celebrate and share knowledge, perspectives and friendship, in a safe space for collective thinking and strategising”.

ILC at the 2012 AWID Forum
International land coalition at the Forum, gives brief overview of the different components of the Forum Programme. Participated in a session called “Transforming Economic Power through Women’s Land Rights, organised by the Global Initiative for Economic Social and Cultural Rights,” which sought to raise awareness of key standards promoting women’s land rights, showcasing lessons learned etc. Lists other relevant sessions that they participated in.

IDS at the 12th AWID International Forum on Women’s Rights in Development
http://www.ids.ac.uk/news/ids-at-the-12th-awid-international-forum-on-womens-rights-in-development
Pre Forum announcement and overview of the events that IDS has planned at the Forum.

AWID 2012 Forum, April 19-22, Istanbul, Turkey
Stating that the Global Gender Climate Alliance will be attending the Forum.

Launch of the “FTF in the U.S.” Gender and Climate Justice Tribunal
Feminist Task Force announcement on the in depth session on Ecological Health on the launch of next gender and climate justice tribunals which will take place for the first time in the global North, in the United States. Gives description about what the tribunals are and where specifically they will be held.

YCSRR is Attending the 2012 AWID Forum
http://www.youthcoalition.org/html/home_article.php?id_art=368&id_cat=1
Announcement of the Forum and that 2 members of the Youth Coalition on sexual and reproductive rights will be attending.

WLULM/VNC at the AWID Forum: The Nexus between Culture, Gender and Other Identities: Resisting Discrimination and Reclaiming Space
Announcement on the sessions that Women Living Under Muslim Laws are participating in at the Forum.

APWLD at 2012 AWID Forum
http://www.apwld.org/latest-news/apwld-at-2012-awid-forum/
Announcement on the sessions that Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development are participating in at the Forum.

JASS at the 2012 AWID Forum
Announcement on the sessions that JASS are organizing/ participating in at the Forum.

Women’s Economic Power: A Key Issue at the AWID Forum
http://www.uniterra.ca/blog/uniterra/awid2012/
Sessions that WUSC are organizing.

AWID Forum 2012 GNWP Events
http://www.gnwp.org/events/awid-forum-2012-gnwp-events
Global Network of Women Peacebuilders list of sessions they are organizing.

http://www.awid.org/browse/2245
African Women’s Development Fund announcement on sessions they are going to lead at the Forum.

AWID Forum 2012
Announcement of events that International Land Coalition delegation is participating in.
EASSI invited to the 2012 AWID Forum in Istanbul, Turkey
Eastern African Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women announces they are attending the Forum (all info from Forum website).

AWID Forum 2012
Link to statements about Busan that AWID prepared and flyer for Busan session at the Forum.

Gender and Development at AWID Forum 2012
http://www.genderanddevelopment.org/awid-forum.asp
Gender and Development announces that they have attended the Forum and were thrilled to be there, provides link to photo exhibition that they prepared and presented.

Rugters e-newsletter – From the Executive Director
http://eww.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/reviews/enewspring12.pdf
Newsletter from CWGL that states that Radhika participated in the final plenary and provides a list of sessions they organized.

Caribbean Women at the AWID Forum
http://istanbulplatformforaction.wordpress.com/about-us/
Announcement of participation of Caribbean Women at the 2012 AWID Forum, with description of their session and that a small Planning Committee was established to raise funds, and enhance the participation of Caribbean women at the Forum.
http://istanbulplatformforaction.wordpress.com/7-2/
Flyer of session of Caribbean women.

WLP Activities in Conjunction with the AWID Forum 2012
Description of WLP Activities pre Forum and during the Forum.

Preparing for the AWID Forum
http://www.worldpulse.com/node/51919
Explaining how author will tweet when she’s at the Forum and what roundtables she’s participating in:
Women Human Rights Defenders in Central Asia and the Caucus region facing violence and violations of their rights.

Reports from the 2012 AWID International Forum
Blog from WUSC announcing that they have arrived and will have 10 delegates from five countries attending the Forum.

Strengthening the Global Women’s Movement at AWID 2012
http://blogs.awe.org/blog/2012/04/19/awid-2012
Announcement of the Forum and that Gita Sen inspired them to think through impq questions over next four days.

Oxfam and Partners at AWID: A Quest and Hunger For Change
Announces arrival and details of grassroots participants who have traveled to attend the Forum.

Social Media for Social Change
http://www.tumblr.com/tagged/awid-forum
Comments on Session organized by WLP and the use Twitter to link up with partners, be part of a global conversation with like minded people and organisations, advocate for women’s rights and gender equality and build a constituency with example from Kyrgyzstan, also gives example of SEWA Radio in India and the power of popular education.

Filipina Leaders Join International Women’s Conference In Istanbul
http://www.oxfamblogs.org/philippines/?p=1936
Announcement from Oxfam on who is attending from the Philippines, and backgrounds.

AWID Forum
http://storify.com/Jinsiyati/awid-forum
Tweets from Collective for Research and Training on Development.Action.

The 2012 AWID Forum in Pictures
Pictures of the AWID Forum.
Appendix 4:
Society for International Development (SID) Development Journal Special
AWID 2012 Forum Issue – Editorial
Taken from: http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/dev201249a.html

No Economic Justice without Gender Justice
by Wendy Harcourt

It seems incredible in these days of economic crisis that over 2,200 women (and some men) found the time and money to fly to Istanbul for a discussion on gender and economic justice at the AWID Forum 2012. Registrations closed a week before the event opened and the majority of the 800 organizations and individuals who answered the call for sessions and papers could not be accommodated.

Like many who attended, I spent months preparing for the event. With AWID, I organized in autumn a special meeting to plan this journal issue. I contributed to designing and participating in three of the sessions. And in the weeks in the run up to the event, I was continually promising my network of colleagues and friends that we would meet up in Istanbul to plot, to listen to each other’s sessions, or find a corner somewhere to catch up. Like many others, I came to Istanbul to learn, to find and renew friendships, to be energized and to plan for the future. AWID Forums are special, highly charged, inclusive and exciting.

The secret of their success is that, in the end, they are not events but the converging of many processes. The making and attending of an AWID Forum is part of a complex networking process that brings together different generations of feminists in a space to engage, to share and create. The Development journal has been fortunate to publish now three special editions covering the outcome of the AWID Forum working with the ever more international and dynamic AWID team.

This journal issue is packed with insights. Cindy Clark and Lydia Alpizar Durán give a sizzling overview in their introduction of the main issues of the Forum from the epicentre of the Forum arrangements. The other articles in the Upfront section present highlights from the plenaries and in-depth sessions. Articles based on stirring speeches reflect new forms of activism and urgency in today’s crisis hung world. From the defiant revolutionary poem by Marwa Sharafeldin, to the talk of a fierce new world by Gita Sen and Marilyn Waring’s crisp critique of economic power; from Christa Wichterich’s urging to occupy development, to Rhadika Balakrishnan plea for popular education, and the warnings of the misuse of culture by Yakin Ertürk, we sense a new dynamism and activism as women confront economic and social inequalities. Jayati Ghosh completes the section when she argues it is time for feminists to enter into the discussion of alternatives more forcefully in order to define how economic institutions and policies can ensure a gender-just economy and society.

The Thematic section pushes further into how this engagement might happen with a series of articles setting out the structural reasons for the economic
injustices that are impeding women's lives. Feminist economists, most of whom spoke at the AWID Forum, go to the core of economic processes in order to give a gender reading of financialization of our lives; the impact of neo-liberal economic policies on women's employment; social protection policies; taxes; balancing family life; funding for women's rights, environment, well-being and livelihoods.

The Dialogue section details a vision of change by setting out feminist alternative visions to the mainstream economic development model. The three articles present: how AWID is engaged with many women's rights networks exploring alternatives; what is being constructed in Latin America by feminists and others around the Andean concept of Buen Vivir; and lastly post-development visions for Africa (anticipating Development 55.4).

The Local/Global Encounters section reports on how feminists are resisting inequitable economic processes on the ground. The articles underline women's rights defenders' economic and social struggles in the regional and national context. Whether on the streets in the US Occupy movement, or in Arab squares, or protesting at shock therapy in Greece or indigenous women defending their territories – the authors speak of passion and courage, as well as pain. The concluding photo essay captures in images the breadth of emotions and sheer diversity of women (and men) attending the AWID Forum.

None of these themes and issues will be entirely new to Development readers who will recognize that this journal issue is a continuation of many of the journal's editorial concerns. Since 2008 (and earlier), Development has been assessing and questioning the crisis in economics, exploring concepts like food sovereignty, sustaining livelihoods, climate justice, cosmovisions, Buen Vivir, civic action and the green economy.

Even given that many contributors to those issues spoke of gender equality and women's rights, true to Development's editorial line, specific issues need to be devoted to deepening an understanding of gender power relations in development. As very recent events show, women's rights and gender equality continues to be under threat. I am writing this as the results of the Egyptian election are coming in, with a win to Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood along with cheers of Islamists in Tahrir Square. I wonder what the young Egyptian women whom I listened to at the AWID Forum are feeling. The aftermath of the Arab Spring has not been inclusive of the women who came out on the streets 16 months ago.

I am also writing at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 with its messy and disappointing end. Kumi Naidoo of Greenpeace has declared it a catastrophe. Certainly the women attending were appalled. The official declaration called ‘The Future We Want’ signed by 190 countries only ‘recalls’ (not recognizes) the Beijing Declaration in 1995. And any reference to support sexuality, reproductive rights and health was repressed, at the instigation of the Vatican and conservative states. Such an outcome takes women's rights back two decades.

These losses for women's rights and body politics underline that it is vital that all of us understand that gender equality and women's rights are crucial to democracy and sustainable livelihoods, to the planet's health and to all of our future. It is too much to hope that the AWID Forum and this resulting set of excellent articles alone will keep the
energy and passion we require to ensure a secure and safe future.

Feminists and women's rights defenders cannot do it for themselves, whatever the Annie Lennox and Aretha Franklin song (Sisters Are Doin’ It For Themselves) promises. What we need is for all people concerned about economic and social justice and development to be informed and knowledgeable on women's rights within the context of economic and the whole breadth of today’s climate, food, energy and care crises. Women need to deal with economic issues from their own experience, in their own language and concerns and those experiences need to be brought to the table, as Ghosh says—feminists need to be actively engaged in the urgent task of finding alternatives.

The journal abounds with vision and understanding of what is required—the question will be how to ensure dialogue goes beyond the AWID Forum to reach others – so that gender equity is part of future social movement strategies, new forms of development policy and democratic change. The tweets, blogs and immediate reporting via ‘Open Democracy’, popular radio, television and alternative media meant that the highlights, individual peoples’ impressions and key messages went out immediately to tens of thousands of people. But building alliances is much harder.

So how to break out of the comfort zone of the AWID Forum? That does not mean that such Forums should not be (especially ones that are so well organized, are held in seven languages and engage so many diverse people). These spaces are vital, given that the world is decidedly not a comfortable place for most attending—the transgender people, the sex workers, domestic workers, rape survivors, those living with disabilities, indigenous women, all of whom are struggling for their rights on many levels. But we need to work hard to make connections that reach out from such events and processes in order to build open inclusive spaces, networks and pathways towards economic justice. These alliances need to be built from strategic dialogues, joint action and political engagement that should be at the basis of true democratic engagement that confronts our current injustice economic and social power structures.

Notes
1 The AWID Forum held in Bangkok: ‘Women’s Rights in Development’, Development 49(1), (January 2006); The AWID Forum held in Cape Town: ‘Power, Movements, Change’, Development 52(2), (June 2009).
