



**AHG OF INGOs**  
Representatives to FAO in Rome

**FAO Conference 2011**

**June 25 – July 2**

## **BPW INTERNATIONAL 1930 - 2010**

Business and Professional Women





## ***International Federation of Business and Professional Women***



BPW International has become one of the most influential international networks of business and professional women with affiliates in 80 countries in five continents. BPW has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. BPW projects assist women to:

- I. Enter and re-enter the workforce
- II. Start up and advance their business or profession
- III. Protect their rights
- IV. Overcome their limitations
- V. Create a nurturing environment in work, education, health for women development

We collaborate to national and international projects with governments and institutions.

2 weeks ago, in Helsinki at the 37<sup>o</sup> Congress with almost 600 attendants, International President was elected. F.M. is from Australia and her motto until 2014 will be 'Bringing the voice of Women to Business' As temporary Coordinator of the AdHoc Group representing BPW together with ARC I'm pleased to present this Side Event at the end of a very important FAO Conference.

From the 80's Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs cooperates with FAO to the promotion and implementation of the concept of people's participation. Associate with the work of UN Agencies, the participants convey their message and help to identify problems or suggesting solutions, offering comments and proposals (the Plan of Action of Women in development started in 1989 and my colleagues were here). The most important character of all NGOs is their autonomy, identity and independence. Our role has to be related not exclusively to the amount of funds our organizations succeed in mobilizing but especially to the approach we use in developing activities of different nature, in developing as well as in industrialized countries.

This interim role, undertaken on voluntary basis, is encouraged and further stimulated when demonstration of interest comes from international bodies.

The theme selected for this session of the FAO Conference is of interest to all INGOs members of the AhGroup not only those strongly related to gender matters, all members being active agents in implementing policy recommendations and proven strategies for closing the gap in agricultural and rural development at regional, national and international level Political choices the Governments make determine as usual whether poverty is eradicated or increased.

We consider this meeting a starting point for future, individual and cooperative activities and from our special point of observation we will continue the collaboration with FAO and especially focusing the issue related to the Voice of Women in Agriculture.

*Cristina Gorajski Visconti*