

attentive public can express its concerns and opinions, consultations and other government-sponsored mechanisms to facilitate the participation of civil society in the foreign policy-making process contribute to greater – although by no means complete – democratization.

While the government provided funds to facilitate NGO participation at most of the major international conferences and summits convened in the 1990s, the particular mechanisms set up in the case of the Beijing Conference on Women were unique. In particular, the Canadian Beijing Facilitating Committee, whose members were selected through an exhaustive canvassing of women's groups throughout Canada, had its headquarters wholly within the women's movement. The CBFC fed into the Canadian Preparatory Committee, which was established to facilitate consultations between members of the federal Interdepartmental Committee on the World Conference on Women and NGOs in the preparations of Canada's positions on documents pertaining to the UN Conference on Women. Despite the presence of government-sponsored mechanisms facilitating NGO participation, however, outcomes were not affected. While the process did assist NGOs in developing their positions and it facilitated a two-way flow of information between government officials and NGO representatives, it did not result in the NGOs having significant influence over the substance or direction of Canada's positions.

### ***“(Re) Claiming the Economic: Women’s Groups and Canadian Foreign Policy”***

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In February 1999, a new coalition of women's groups called the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Actions (FAFIA) was created. It signalled a significant shift in attention by Canadian equality-seeking women's groups to participate collectively in international activities. Its primary focus is to enable women in Canada to have an effective voice in discussions affected by globalization and the liberalization of trade. The creation of this coalition and its subsequent activity around the Beijing + 5 process have illustrated many challenges and constraints for the federal government and the Canadian women's movement. This paper explores the discursive and practical dynamics that have arisen from the work of this coalition and the challenges it has posed for the development and practice of Canadian foreign policy. The paper traces the history of the involvement of equity-seeking women's groups in the international arena, and presents an analysis of women's groups in Canada in the post-Beijing period. In so doing, it identifies a series of constraints; within the women's movement in Canada, within policy development and implementation, as well as points to the broader structural constraints within the government of Canada which make it difficult to incorporate analysis of women or gender in economic policy-making, and to the constraints within the international system shaping or limiting the framework for international decision-making.

The paper concludes with a discussion of how these constraints have shaped or are reflected in the discourses and practices of Canadian foreign policy. In particular, it identifies three areas characterized by exclusion: the discourse on democratization (where women's groups are often excluded in economic consultations), the discourse on globalization (where an analysis of gender is excluded), and the discourse on human security (where economic analysis is excluded, despite the efforts of women's groups to make these present).