

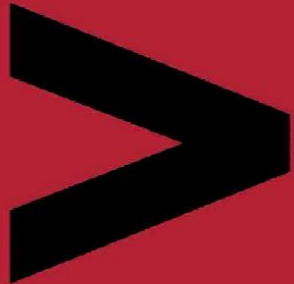
not equal



less than



equal



greater than



approximately equal

#VRSI

POWER, VOICE and RIGHTS

A Turning Point for Gender Equality in Asia and the Pacific



*Gender
Inequalities in
Asia- Pacific
Overview*

11 September 2013,
Asia Regional
Evaluation
Summit

The big picture

Asia-Pacific is at a cross road ... by putting the right policies in place now, countries in the region can achieve positive change.

Asia-Pacific has one of the world's worst gender gaps



- More women than ever are “disappearing”
- Few countries have laws prohibiting violence against women
- Lack of education and paid work for women is depressing economic growth

Gender equality

- Is a right, is moral
- Is good economics
- Is strategic, deepens democracy, true social stability

Is there a common understanding of gender equality?

- The concept of equality is complex and debated
- Gender equality is not sameness of genders

This Report advocates that all are equally valuable and entitled

- Equality is based on fairness – freedoms, choices and equal access to capabilities for all is inherent to human development
- Historical disadvantage needs to be taken into account in policies and programmes

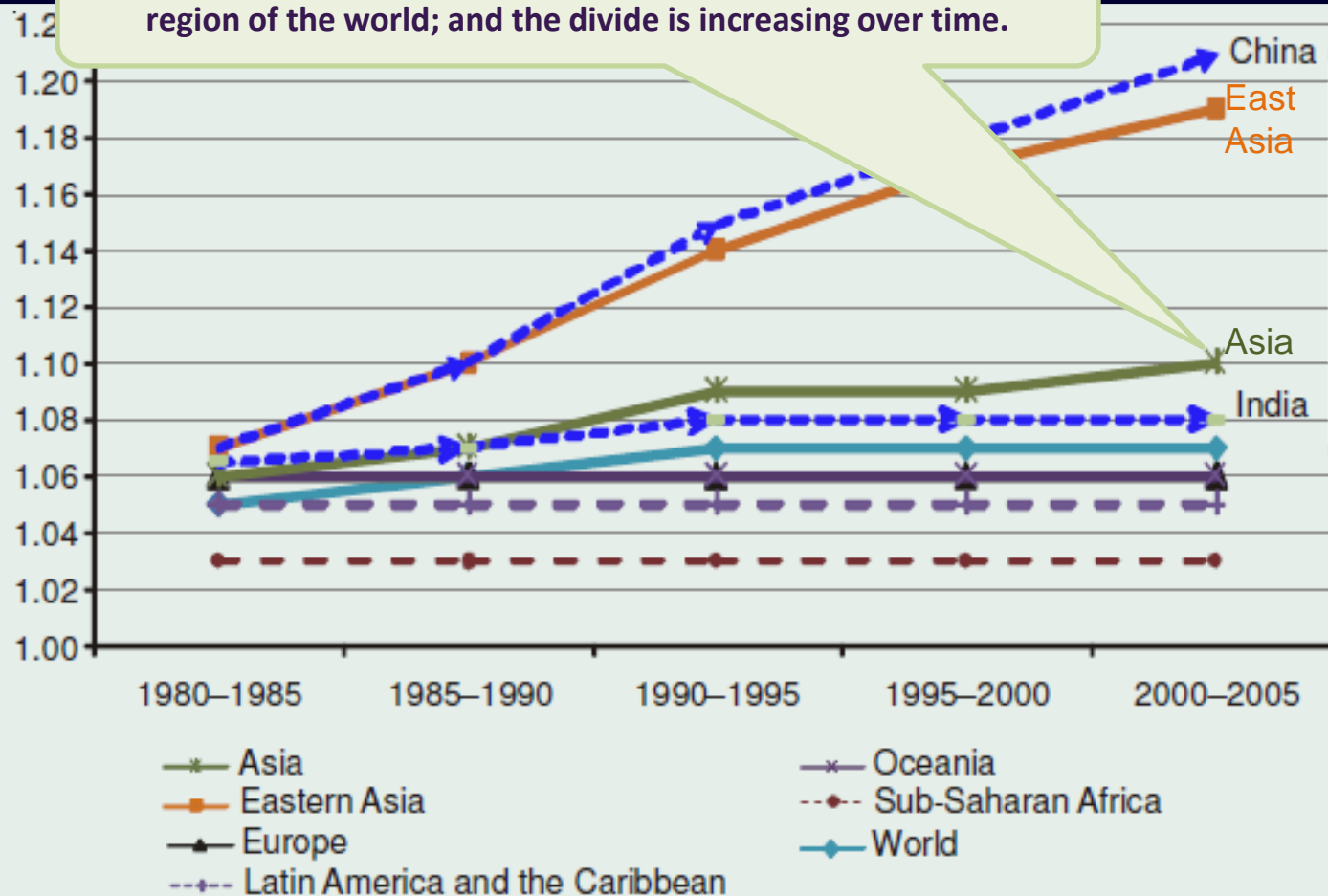


Asia exhibits some extreme forms of gender based discrimination and violence...



More boys than girls are born in Asia as a whole than in any other region of the world; and the divide is increasing over time.

Male to female sex ratio at birth



The world average for male-female sex ratio is 101.7, but in East Asia it is 106.2 and in South Asia 105.7

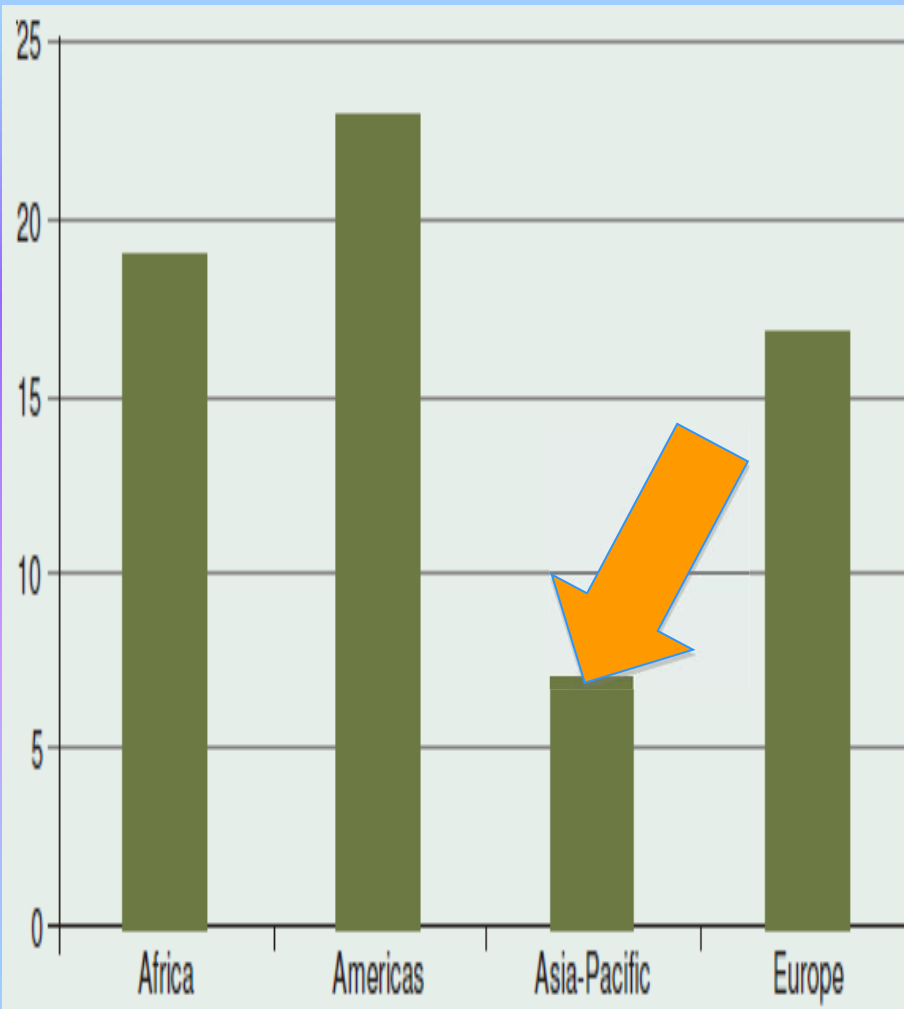
More women than ever are “disappearing” – who died as a result of health and nutrition neglect, or were never born in the first place. Around a 100 million women were missing in just seven Asian countries

Three strategic windows



- **Economic power**
- **Political voice**
- **Legal rights**

Economic power: discrimination is costly



Per cent of Farmland Owned by Women

Regional Comparisons

Source: FAO agricultural census 1989 to 1999

Hardly any women own land or a house

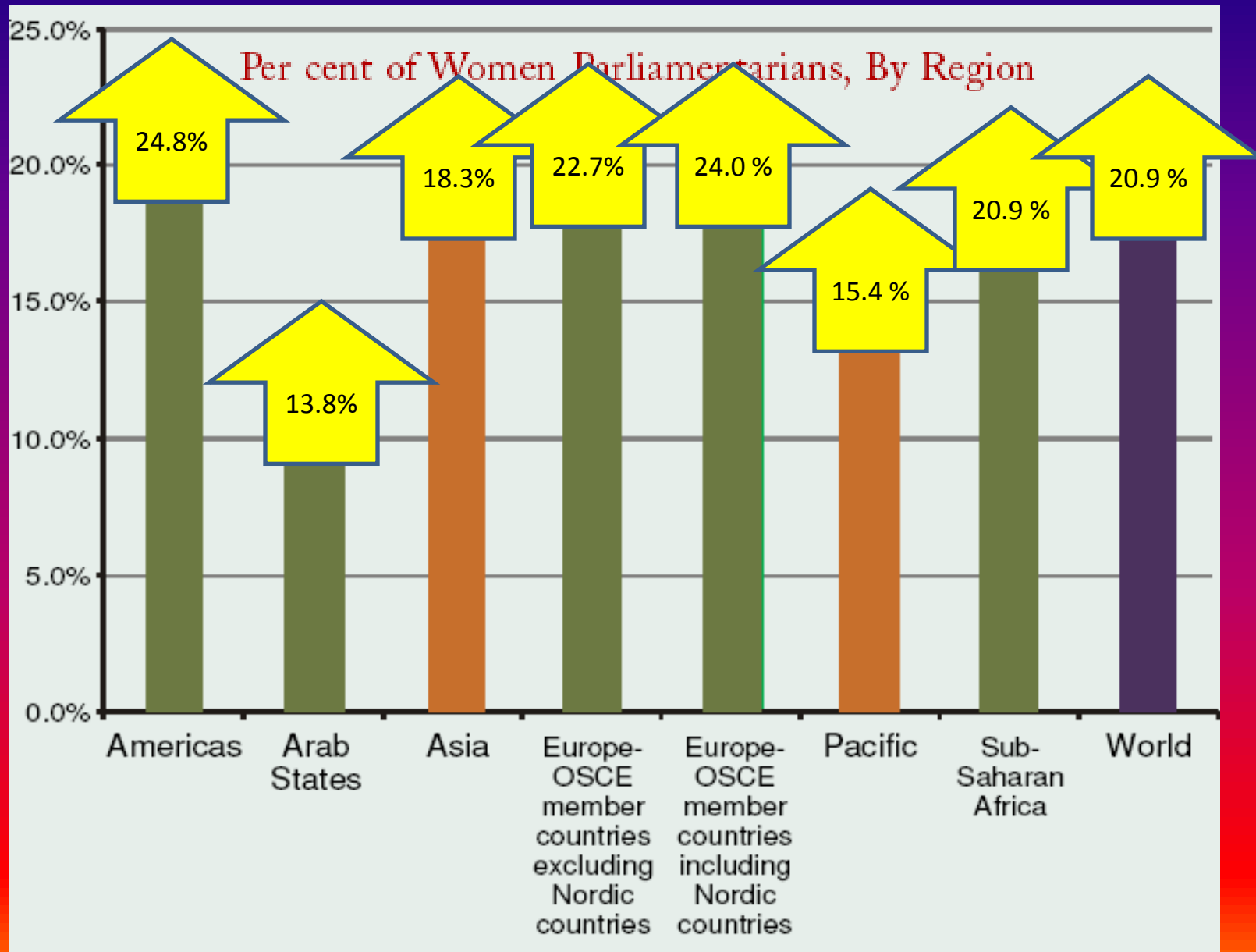
- Women head only 7% of farms, less than half of Africa
- Inheritance rights are unequal
- Women's ownership of a house or land reduces gender-based violence

Women are disadvantaged in paid work

- Women earn less than men
- Only 36% participate in labour force in South Asia – about half that of East Asia

Political voice

Asia-Pacific is second from the bottom

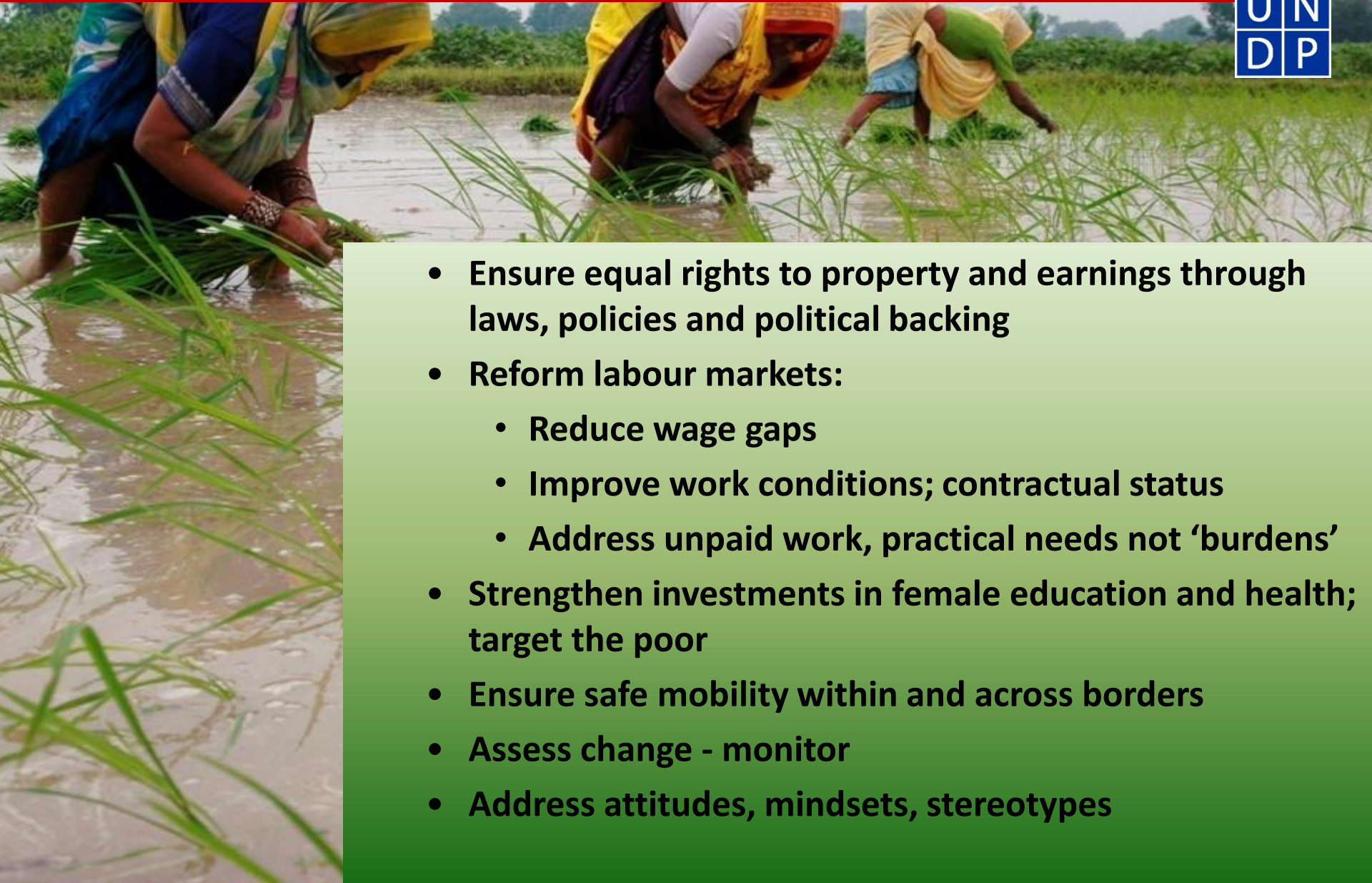


Legal rights: laws are lagging



- **The region's history**
 - Laws rooted in a web of contradictory influences
- **Laws are absent, unequal, contradictory**
 - Lack of laws on domestic violence
 - Discriminatory rules for trial procedures and evidence
 - Traditional law vs. constitutional equality
- ***De jure* and *de facto* gaps**
 - Even equitable laws do not always translate into equality in practice
- **Unequal access for women**

Bringing equality within reach: boost economic control



- Ensure equal rights to property and earnings through laws, policies and political backing
- Reform labour markets:
 - Reduce wage gaps
 - Improve work conditions; contractual status
 - Address unpaid work, practical needs not 'burdens'
- Strengthen investments in female education and health; target the poor
- Ensure safe mobility within and across borders
- Assess change - monitor
- Address attitudes, mindsets, stereotypes

Bringing equality within reach: harness democratic dividends

- Boost the number and quality of female representation to deepen democracy
- Build capacity, nurture interest, mentor both inside and outside the formal political system
- Bring gender-friendly budgets on political agendas
- Seek out women's voices in and after crises
- Assess change, monitor
- Change attitudes, mindsets



Bringing equality within reach: enforcing rights; correcting wrongs

FIX LAWS; IMPROVE ACCESS

- Support legal reform and synchronize contradictory legal webs for real justice - go beyond mechanical 'non-discrimination'
- Improve access to justice
 - Orient the police, judiciary and increase female staff
- Use international norms as benchmarks for gender equality
- Support judicial activism for positive change
- Assess and track change
- Recognise and change attitudes - identify religious and traditional leaders, CSOs as champions of gender justice

Moving forward: Institutions, Assessments and Attitudes



Institutions
and
assessments
may be
relatively
easy...

INSTITUTIONS

- 1. Make international commitments a reality**
- 2. Craft economic policies to support gender equality**
- 3. Make the content of education more gender-equal**
- 4. Boost political participation and women's role in government**
- 5. Pursue better laws**
- 6. Close gaps between laws and legal practices**

ASSESSMENTS

- 7. Collect better data; strengthen capacity for gender analysis**

ATTITUDES

- 8. Foster new attitudes**

**Which way will we turn?
It is up to us...**



All Pictures / Courtesy Reuters

<http://asiapacific-hdr.aprc.undp.org/>