

CSW Session

The 55th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women was held from 22nd February to 4th March, 2011. **Chandrika Bhattarai**, Chairperson, **Neera Shrestha**, Human Resource Development Coordinator and **Srijana Lohani**, Senior Program Manager from WHR represented during the session.

South Asian Network for Widows' Empowerment in Development (SANWED) which had been working as a loose network was decided to register formally in Nepal through a meeting held on 21st February. Further, roles and responsibilities of National Chapters were also identified during the SANWED meeting.



A panel discussion on Resolution on Widowhood: The Time is now for UN Attention organized by Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD) took place on Tuesday 22nd February at noon at 221 East 52nd in the Main Auditorium of the International Social Justice Commission of the Salvation Army. **Margaret Owen**, Director of WPD chaired the session. Other panelists were **Meera Khanna**, Vice Chairperson of Guild of Service, India; **Eleanor Nwadinobi**, Director of Widows' Development Organization, Nigeria;

Srijana Lohani, Senior Program Manager of WHR, Nepal; **Judge Zakia Hakki**, Former Member of Iraqi Parliament and **Lauren Gibbs** of Global Action on Widowhood. Ms. Lohani from WHR made the presentation on *Mobilizing the Grassroots for Advocacy*.

The Resolution on Widowhood was drafted during this CSW meeting and lobbied to ratify at UN. This resolution is developed based on the recommendation from Widows' Charter and Kathmandu Declaration that were developed during International Conference on Widowhood organized by WHR in June 2010 at Kathmandu.

WHR representatives also participated in the official launching of the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 at CSW on 23rd February at Millennium Hotel Plaza, 44 Street and 1st Avenue, New York. Nepal is the first country in South Asia and second in Asia after Philippines to adopt NAP on UNSCR 1325 which has also incorporated widows' issues. Further, the representatives also participated in the official launching of UN WOMEN, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on 24th February at General Assembly Hall, UN building.

Margaret Owen and Srijana Lohani also had a meeting with Madam Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN WOMEN on 3rd March which focused on widowhood issues.

