



**Questionnaire to Governments
on Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995)
and
the Outcome of the Twenty-Third
Special Session of the General Assembly (2000)**

INTRODUCTION

I. REVIEW AND APPRAISAL IN THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN 2005

A review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), is mandated in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women for its forty-ninth session in March 2005. The Commission will consider two themes:

“Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly”; and

“Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls”.

The review and appraisal by the Commission will identify achievements, gaps and challenges and provide an indication of areas where actions and initiatives, within the framework of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the special session (Beijing+5), are most urgent to further implementation.

To prepare for the review and appraisal, the United Nations Secretariat will draw on a variety of sources of information and statistics. These include the national action plans designed to implement the Platform for Action (and submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women in 1998 and 1999); reports submitted since 1995 by States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and information generated since 1995 during the review by the Commission on the Status of Women of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, including through expert group meetings organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women.

Other sources of information which will be utilized include Common Country Assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, (CCA/UNDAFs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, (PRSPs), national Human Development Reports and Millennium Development

Goal (MDG) reports. National reports on other areas, such as social development and sustainable development, will also be utilized.

Official statistics available from the United Nations Statistics Division, the Population Division, the regional commissions and other entities in the United Nations system (ILO, UNESCO, WHO, etc.) will also be used. Coordination will be established with United Nations entities responsible for follow-up to other global conferences in order to exchange pertinent country information, in particular with UNFPA on follow-up to the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and its review in 2002, as well as the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 and its review in 2005.

Review and appraisal will also be carried out at regional level. In addition to the documents mentioned above, the regional processes will utilize regional action plans, national reports to regional bodies and the outcomes of expert group meetings and other activities at regional level.

II. INTRODUCTION TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The attached questionnaire has been prepared with the objective to complement the existing sources of information to facilitate the review and appraisal to be carried out by the Commission on the Status of Women. In their responses to the questionnaire, reporting States should indicate which other sources of information they wish the Secretariat to take into account in the review and appraisal process.

The questionnaire will be utilized in the review and appraisal processes at both regional and global levels. The responses from Governments should therefore be provided to both the Division for the Advancement of Women in New York and the relevant regional commissions.

The questionnaire consists of four parts. In Part One, reporting States are invited to provide a brief analytical overview of their specific experiences in implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. This overall picture should highlight *major* achievements and obstacles encountered by the reporting States in implementation since 1995. Reporting States may refer to earlier reports on achievements, especially those prepared in the context of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in 2000. Responses in Part One of the questionnaire should be no longer than three pages.

Part Two of the questionnaire focuses specifically on implementation in the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action (with the exception of the critical area of concern H: Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, which is covered in Part Three of the questionnaire on institutional development), as well as areas that were identified in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly as requiring further initiatives and action. Reporting states are encouraged to provide examples of achievements, including policy development, legislative change and programmes and projects which they have undertaken. Where specific targets or strategies have been set, progress in achieving those targets and

strategies should be reported. Obstacles and remaining gaps and challenges in relation to the critical areas of concern should be identified in this part and a summary of lessons learned provided. Response to Part Two of the questionnaire should be no longer than 10 pages.

Part Three focuses on institutional development or those structures and measures countries have put in place to support promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. It covers the critical area of concern H in the Platform for Action: Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, and chapters V on Institutional Arrangements and VI on Financial Arrangements, as well as actions identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Information on national machineries, capacity-building programmes for line ministries, resource allocation, and monitoring and accountability mechanisms and partnerships should be described in this section. Responses to Part Three of the questionnaire should be four pages in length.

In Part Four respondents are invited to provide information on the remaining key challenges and constraints in the reporting States as well as any plans for future actions and initiatives to address these and to ensure full implementation of the Platform for Action in each of the critical areas of concern. Reporting States are encouraged, in particular, to indicate any new commitments they will make to further implement the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at national level over the next ten years. Responses to Part Four of the questionnaire should be no longer than three pages.

III. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The information being sought through the questionnaire is more qualitative than quantitative in nature. Emphasis is placed on implementation, and reporting States are urged, as far as possible, to provide information on impacts of initiatives and activities described. Outputs and actions should be differentiated from achievements and impacts on the situation of women and promotion of gender equality. Reporting States are, however, also encouraged to provide quantitative data, disaggregated by sex and age, or to indicate where such data has already been submitted in other contexts. Countries wishing to provide information on indicators used at the national level to monitor activities for gender equality and empowerment of women may do so. Reporting States are also urged to provide information on the specific time periods for initiatives and actions taken.

Since many Member States reported in the context of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in 2000, information contained in these reports does not need to be repeated. A list of reports submitted by Member States to the United Nations Secretariat prior to the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) and prior to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), as well as National Actions Plans and the most recent reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, can be found on the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>).

Examples of issues and questions which can be covered under each part of the questionnaire are provided in *italics* for guidance. Reporting States are not required to cover each of these issues

but to select those which are most relevant in their national context. Additional issues, over and above those provided as guidance, can also be raised in the responses.

IV. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

Responses to this questionnaire should be sent in both hard copy and electronic format in one of the six official United Nations languages, no later than 30 April 2004 to:

United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
Two UN Plaza, Room 1250
New York, NY 10017, USA
Fax: (212) 963-3463
E.mail: **daw@un.org**

At the same time responses to the questionnaire from reporting States (in hard-copy and electronic format) should also be sent to the relevant regional commissions:

Economic Commission for Africa
African Centre for Women,
P.O. Box 3001 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Fax: (251-1) 51-2785
E.mail: **ouedraogoj@un.org**

Economic Commission for Europe
Palais des Nations 1211, Geneva, Switzerland
Fax: (41-22) 917-0036;
E.mail: **patrice.robineau@unece.org**

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Women and Development Unit
Casilla 179-D, Santiago, Chile
Fax: (56-2) 208-1553;
E.mail: **smontano@eclac.cl**

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Emerging Social Issues Division,
UN Building Rajdamnern Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand
Fax: (66-2) 288-1018
E.mail: **kay.unescap@un.org**

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
P.O. Box 11-8575, Beirut, Lebanon
Fax: (961-1) 981-510-12;
E.mail: **sbaity-kassem@un.org**

QUESTIONNAIRE

Part One: Overview of achievements and challenges in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment

Give a brief analytical overview (in no more than three pages) of the major achievements in implementing the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5). Indicate two to three priority areas focused on since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Identify areas where gender perspectives and the concerns of women have been taken into account in major legislative change, policy reforms, budget decisions or national development debates, including, for example, in the context of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). (See Annex I). Indicate the outcomes of monitoring of the national action plan adopted after the Fourth World Conference on Women. Specify the extent to which specific targets identified in the Millennium Development Goals, the Platform for Action or the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly have been met. Identify the remaining major gaps and challenges to achieving these targets. (See Annex II for a list of specific targets on women's empowerment and gender equality).

Guiding questions:

The response could, for example, address the following issues and questions:

- a) Has a policy on **gender equality and the empowerment of women** been adopted and at what level? Was a plan of action developed to support its implementation? What mechanisms were established for monitoring and how are different actors held accountable for its implementation? Is there a national coordination mechanism at the highest level to ensure that the policy is implemented in all sector areas?*
- b) What is the status of the **national action plan** developed after the Fourth World Conference on Women? Is the plan in use or has a new plan been drawn up? How is implementation being monitored? What constraints exist to utilizing the plan as an effective instrument for the promotion of gender equality?*
- c) To what extent are the **Millennium Declaration** and the **Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs)** utilized as the national framework for development? What attention is given to Goal 3 on gender equality? Are gender perspectives and the concerns of women considered in all other MDG goals? Are links made to the Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly as well as to the national action plan developed to implement the Platform for Action?*
- d) To what extent have the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, and the concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on States parties reports, affected national legislation and implementation?*

e) What are the **main legislative and policy-making achievements** in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment over the past decade? Please provide details.

f) To what extent have gender perspectives and the concerns of women been taken into account in preparation of **budgets** at national, regional and local levels? Describe efforts to monitor budgetary allocations related to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women.

g) Provide information on major **government policy discussions and/or parliamentary debates** where gender perspectives and the concerns of women have been taken systematically into account. What **recent major reforms** have taken place in the country where these perspectives were taken into account, and what **major problems** are being debated in the country where these perspectives are considered as part of the overall debate?

h) In countries emerging from **armed conflict**, to what extent were women involved, and gender perspectives and women's concerns included, in peace negotiations and in planning of reconstruction efforts? Please give concrete examples.

i) How has **globalization** (for example, the use of ICT, market liberalization, changes in trading patterns, etc) affected the empowerment of women and girls and the promotion of gender equality?

j) In which **sector areas** have specific policies, strategies and/or action plans for promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment been developed? Describe progress in implementation. To what extent are gender perspectives and the concerns of women routinely taken into account in legislation and policy making and programme development in other sectors?

k) What important **partnerships have been** established with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups, as well as the private sector and other stakeholders, in support of gender equality and empowerment of women?

l) What efforts have been made to actively engage men and boys in the promotion of gender equality? What successes have been achieved and what constraints have been identified?

Part Two: Progress in implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and the further initiatives and actions identified in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Provide (in no more than 10 pages) information on successful actions taken, achievements and impacts, and identify remaining obstacles, gaps and challenges for the critical areas of concern from the Platform for Action (with the exception of H: Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women which is covered in Part Three) and the other key issues identified, including through the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5). (See Annex III for the Strategic Objectives from the Beijing Platform for Action.) Additional issues over and above the critical areas of concern from the Platform for Action could include, for example, ICT, HIV/AIDS, financing for development, migration, trafficking, older women and indigenous women. Report on actions taken by the national machinery as well as work done by line ministries. Provide at least one example for each area outlining how line ministries have worked to give greater attention to gender perspectives and the concerns of women. Give examples of successful policies and programmes and include information on targets, strategies, impacts achieved and lessons learned.

Guiding questions

The response could address, but does not need to be limited to, the issues outlined below:

A. Examples of successful policies, legislative change and programmes and projects

a) In relation to the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action and other key issues, what successful actions (such as legal measures, policy reforms, media campaigns, and pilot programmes or projects) have been taken by the Government or other actors (NGOs, civil society, the private sector) to achieve these objectives.

b) To what extent have specific commitments made by the Government at the Fourth World Conference on Women, in the National Action Plan, or in other contexts, been met?

c) To what extent are gender perspectives and the concerns of women given attention in the follow-up to other global conferences, such as the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), the General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (New York, 2001); the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002), the Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 2002), and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002)?

B. Examples of obstacles encountered and remaining gaps and challenges

d) Describe the obstacles and gaps and challenges encountered in implementation in each critical area of concern and other key issues identified.

C. Lessons learned

e) Provide information on the main lessons learned in implementation in relation to each of the critical areas of concern and other key issues identified.

Part Three: Institutional Development

Provide information (in no more than four pages) on any institutional mechanisms and arrangements put in place to support the follow-up and implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5). Address gaps and challenges as well as progress. Provide at least one good example of achievement and impact. (Information already provided in Parts One or Two should not be repeated here).

Guiding questions

The response could address, but does not need to be limited to, the issues outlined below:

- a) What **national mechanisms** exist for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women – for example, ministry, national commission, parliamentary committee or commission? What mandates and resources does each body have and how do they work together? Describe the location of the national mechanisms and the access to decision-making processes. What are the main partners of the national mechanisms? What networks have been established and how effective are these networks? What resources do the national mechanisms have in terms of staff and financial support? What percentage of financial resources comes from international or bilateral donors?*
- b) Have **focal points** for gender equality and empowerment of women been established within line ministries, and in which ministries? What support is provided from within the ministries? What support (training, advice etc.) is provided by the national machinery? How effective are these focal points?*
- c) What **monitoring** mechanisms have been established to measure progress in implementation? How is accountability for promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women established across all ministries? How is coordination achieved? What role does the highest level of Government play?*
- d) What levels of **capacity** for promoting gender mainstreaming have been achieved? Through which mechanisms? What are the remaining challenges in the area of capacity building?*
- e) Has a core set of **indicators** been established and where is responsibility for monitoring located? What gaps and challenges remain in relation to data and statistics? In which areas is lack of sex-disaggregation still a problem? In which areas do new types*

of data need to be collected? To what extent are the national statistical office and the statistical units in line ministries aware, committed and capable of providing the required data? In which sectors, and to what extent, is sex-disaggregated data being used effectively to inform policy-making and planning?

*f) Provide information on the **roles of different stakeholders**. For example, what role does Parliament play in the promotion and monitoring of gender equality and women's empowerment? How could this role be strengthened? Describe the role of NGOs in planning and implementing the follow-up activities. Do NGOs participate formally in the mechanisms established to follow up the Fourth World Conference on Women?*

Part Four: Main challenges and actions to address them

Provide (in no more than three pages) information on areas requiring future action. List any further actions and initiatives which the Government intends to take to fully implement the Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5) beyond 2005. Describe the priority areas – including in the area of institutional development – that have been identified for improving implementation in the next five years. Give examples of measures (with targets and timeframes) which will be taken in each of these areas. What new commitments will be made to further implementation?

ANNEX I

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS (2000)

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education no later than 2015

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

Target 5. Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Target 6. Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Target 8. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Target 10. Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Target 11. By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

Target 12. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Target 13. Address the special needs of the least developed countries

Target 14. Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)

Target 15. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Target 16. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Target 17. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Target 18. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

ANNEX II

SPECIFIC TARGETS ON PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

1. BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION (1995)

80. (b) By the year 2000, provide universal access to basic education and ensure completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children; close the gender gap in primary and secondary school education by the year 2005; provide universal primary education in all countries before the year 2015;

81. (a) Reduce the female illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on rural women, migrant, refugee and internally displaced women and women with disabilities;

81. (b) Provide universal access to, and seek to ensure gender equality in the completion of, primary education for girls by the year 2000;

106. (i) Strengthen and reorient health services, particularly primary health care, in order to ensure universal access to quality health services for women and girls; reduce ill health and maternal morbidity and achieve world wide the agreed-upon goal of reducing maternal mortality by at least 50 per cent of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by the year 2015; ensure that the necessary services are available at each level of the health system and make reproductive health care accessible, through the primary health-care system, to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015;

106 (l) Give particular attention to the needs of girls, especially the promotion of healthy behaviour, including physical activities; take specific measures for closing the gender gaps in morbidity and mortality where girls are disadvantaged, while achieving internationally approved goals for the reduction of infant and child mortality - specifically, by the year 2000, the reduction of mortality rates of infants and children under five years of age by one third of the 1990 level, or 50 to 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever is less; by the year 2015 an infant mortality rate below 35 per 1,000 live births and an under-five mortality rate below 45 per 1,000;

106 (w) Promote and ensure household and national food security, as appropriate, and implement programmes aimed at improving the nutritional status of all girls and women by implementing the commitments made in the Plan of Action on Nutrition of the International Conference on Nutrition, including a reduction world wide of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under the age of five by one half of 1990 levels by the year 2000, giving special attention to the gender gap in nutrition, and a reduction in iron deficiency anaemia in girls and women by one third of the 1990 levels by the year 2000;

143. (e) Recognizing that women and children are particularly affected by the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel land-mines:

(i) Undertake to work actively towards ratification, if they have not already done so, of the 1981 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, particularly the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), with a view to universal ratification by the year 2000;

193. (a) Implement existing and adopt new employment policies and measures in order to achieve overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000, with due regard to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

193. (c) Continue to collect and disseminate quantitative and qualitative data on women and men in decision-making and analyse their differential impact on decision-making and monitor progress towards achieving the Secretary-General's target of having women hold 50 per cent of managerial and decision-making positions by the year 2000.

230. (b) Ratify and accede to and ensure implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000;

230. (l) Take urgent measures to achieve universal ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child before the end of 1995 and full implementation of the Convention in order to ensure equal rights for girls and boys; those that have not already done so are urged to become parties in order to realize universal implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the year 2000;

279. (a) Ensure universal and equal access to and completion of primary education by all children and eliminate the existing gap between girls and boys, as stipulated in article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; similarly, ensure equal access to secondary education by the year 2005 and equal access to higher education, including vocational and technical education, for all girls and boys, including the disadvantaged and gifted;

2. OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2000)

67 (c) Accelerate action and strengthen political commitment to close the gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to ensure free compulsory and universal primary education for both girls and boys by 2015, as advocated by several global conferences, and eliminate policies that have been proven to worsen and perpetuate the gap;

68 (b) Create and maintain a non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive legal environment by reviewing legislation with a view to striving to remove discriminatory provisions as soon as possible, preferably by 2005, and eliminating legislative gaps that leave women and girls without protection of their rights and without effective recourse against gender-based discrimination;

79 (b) Reinforce efforts to ensure universal access to high quality primary health care throughout the life cycle, including sexual and reproductive health care, no later than 2015;

88. Encourage the implementation of measures designed to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender balance in all posts, including at the Professional level and above, in particular at the higher levels in their secretariats, including in peacekeeping missions, peace negotiations and in all activities, and report thereon, as appropriate, and enhance management accountability mechanisms.

95. (f) Continue to support and strengthen national, regional and international adult literacy programmes with international cooperation in order to achieve a 50 per cent improvement in the levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults;

3. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, TARGETS AND INDICATORS (2000)

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Target 3. Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicator 6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education

Indicator 7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5

Indicator 8. Literacy rate of those aged 15 to 24 years

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education no later than 2015

Indicator 9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education

Indicator 10. Ratio of literate females to males, 15 to 24 years old

Indicator 11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector

Indicator 12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Target 6. Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Indicator 16. Maternal mortality ratio

Indicator 17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 7. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Indicator 18. HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15 to 24 years

ANNEX III

BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

A. Women and poverty

- A.1. Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty
- A.2. Revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources
- A.3. Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions
- A.4. Develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty

B. Education and training of women

- B.1. Ensure equal access to education
- B.2. Eradicate illiteracy among women
- B.3. Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education
- B.4. Develop non-discriminatory education and training
- B.5. Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms
- B.6. Promote life-long education and training for girls and women

C. Women and health

- C.1. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services
- C.2. Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health
- C.3. Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues

- C.4. Promote research and disseminate information on women's health
- C.5. Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health

D. Violence against women

- D.1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women
- D.2. Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures
- D.3. Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking

E. Women and armed conflict

- E.1. Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation
- E.2. Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments
- E.3. Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations
- E.4. Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace
- E.5. Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women
- E.6. Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories

F. Women and the economy

- F.1. Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources
- F.2. Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade
- F.3. Provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women
- F.4. Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks

- F.5. Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination
- F.6. Promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men

G. Women in power and decision-making

- G.1. Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making
- G.2. Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership

H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

- H.1. Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies
- H.2. Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects
- H.3. Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation

I. Human rights of women

- I.1. Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- I.2. Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice
- I.3. Achieve legal literacy

J. Women and the media

- J.1. Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication
- J.2. Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media

K. Women and the environment

- K.1. Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels

- K.2. Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development
- K.3. Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women

L. The girl child

- L.1. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child
- L.2. Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls
- L.3. Promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential
- L.4. Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training
- L.5. Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition
- L.6. Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work
- L.7. Eradicate violence against the girl child
- L.8. Promote the girl child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life
- L.9. Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl child