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FRAMEWORK FOR EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION 2003-2004

I. Introduction

Within the framework of Beijing + 10, Africa will evaluate the state of implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platform for Action in 2004 guided by :

- the priorities of the **African Plan of Action 2000-2004 to accelerate the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action**
- the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session to review Beijing + 5 in June 2000.

II. Capacity building for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of PFA

ECA African Centre for Gender and Development developed the Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Programme on the implementation African Plan of Action The Programme focuses on :

- monitoring the status of the national gender policy frameworks, their adequacy in promoting gender mainstreaming in all the sectors and their state of implementation
- monitoring and evaluating the status and capacity of institutional mechanisms to facilitate implementation of the gender policies.
- 21 countries, current members of CWD, are participating in the Programme.
- Sectors of focus are the ministries of agriculture, commerce and industry, health, planning, finance, women affairs and the national coordinating NGO
- Seven senior officers per country were trained in the use of the monitoring and evaluation Tool and the preparation of sectoral monitoring reports every 6 months
- The sectoral reports are to be synthesized into national reports, which are to be forwarded to ECA through the ministries in charge of women affairs.
- The periodic monitoring reports will provide important inputs into the evaluation exercise in second half of 2003

III. Areas of the Beijing Platform for Action to be evaluated

Objectives and scope

- to assess systematically and objectively the **relevance, implications and the sustainability** of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the different critical areas of concern.
- All the 12 critical areas of concern should be evaluated in terms of implementation and results attained, i.e. outputs in the short run or outcomes in the medium term, and impact where the status of women has changed as a result of the implementation of the PFA

Further issues of focus in the evaluation

Recommendations of the *Outcome Document* of the Beijing + 5 General Assembly Special Session in June 2000 and the African Plan of Action 2000-20004 to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in 1999.

1. **Women and poverty:** mainstreaming gender in macro-economic and social policies e.g. programmes of structural adjustment and external debt, recognizing the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women in Africa and addressing women's double burden of paid and unpaid work including women's time use in national accounts
2. **Education and training of women:** Assessing progress made towards closing the gender gap in: equal access to education, vocational training in science and technology, completion of basic education especially those living in rural areas; adult literacy especially 2015, developing gender-sensitive curricula
3. **Women and health:** Assessing progress towards women's right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental well-being throughout their life cycle; universal access to gender sensitive health care services by 2015; achieving the benchmarks to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, provision of safe and effective family planning and contraceptive methods and to reduction of young people's risk of HIV/AIDS; adoption of safe and responsible sexual reproductive behaviour; use of effective methods to prevent sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS
4. **Violence against women:** Assess the extent to which gender-based violence including battering, domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, cultural prejudice, armed conflict, ethnic cleansing etc are being combated and eliminated; programmes that address the imbalances between women and men in reproductive responsibilities

5. **Women and armed conflict:** the extent to which gender-based violence is being addressed in situations of armed conflicts
6. **Women and the economy:** Assess progress made towards mainstreaming a gender perspective into: the key macro-economic and social development policies and national development programmes; design, development, adoption and execution of all budgetary processes, in order to promote equitable budget allocations to support gender equality and development programmes that enhance women's empowerment, develop the necessary analytical and methodological tools and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.
7. **Women in power and decision-making:** equal sharing of decision-making in political, public, private and peace building structures
8. **Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women:** level of political commitment to the gender national machinery (its status, human and financial resources allocated)
9. **Human rights of women:** the creation of non-discriminatory, gender-sensitive legal environment in order to remove discriminatory provisions in such issues as access to land, access to and control of economic resources, inheritance rights. Assurance against the use of maternity, motherhood; parenting and the role of women in procreation as a basis for discrimination or full participation of women in society.
10. **Women in the media:** to be assessed as stipulated in the Platform for Action
11. **Women and the environment:** Use of women's knowledge and priorities in the conservation and management of natural resources. Gender sensitivity of programmes and infrastructures adopted to respond to disasters and emergency situations that threaten the environment, livelihood security and the management of the basic requirements of daily life
12. **The girl-child:** implementation of the recommendations of the Dakar and Beijing PFA

Other related issues that should be evaluated

- **Women and girls with disability:** Government policies and programmes should be evaluated to determine the extent to which they take into account the needs of disabled women and girls, e.g equal access to education, to health care and services and employment opportunities
- **Research-based knowledge and data disaggregated by sex:** provision of national statistical offices with institutional and financial support in order to collect, compile and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age etc.

- **Mechanisms to enhance transparency and accountability:**
- **Allocation of resources:** The adequacy of allocated resources for the implementation of the Platform for Action and for building the necessary capacity for gender mainstreaming in different sectors

IV. Modalities for evaluation at the national, subregional and regional levels

(a) At the national level

- August and December 2003. A national multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral committee to be established to take charge of the evaluation process
- Between January and February 2004, a national meeting of stakeholders to be convened by the National Technical Committee to validate the evaluation report.
- National evaluation report to be submitted to the ECA Subregional Development Centres by March

-The countries participating in the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme of the African Plan of Action will submit 2 reports to the SRDCs: synthesized report on progress made in the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action; and national evaluation report on progress made in the implementation of the African Plan of Action in the selected areas as stipulated in the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme.

(b) At the subregional level

- Reports on national evaluation of the PFA and the evaluation of the African Plan of Action to be submitted to SRDCs by March 2004
- Between April and June 2004, SRDCs to synthesize the national reports and to submit them to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for discussion and consensus building on the subregional priority gender issues
- Participants to include Monitoring and Evaluation Officers from the ministries participating in the M & E Programme. RECs should also participate.
- SRDCs will submit the final subregional evaluation reports to ECA/ ACGD by end July 2004

(c) At the regional level

- ACGD to synthesize subregional evaluation reports and submit them to the Regional High Level Consultative Meeting in 2004. Participants at the Consultative Meeting should include ministers from the 7 sectors participating in the M & E Programme.
- The RECs, AU, ECA and ADB to evaluate the status of implementation of the African Plan of Action and the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action in their institutions and report directly at the Regional High Level Consultative Meeting in November 2004
- The Regional High Level Consultative Meeting to review the regional evaluation reports and build a consensus on priority gender issues and the way forward as Africa's input into the global Beijing + 10 review conference in 2005.

Annex 1 : Evaluation Questions.

Evaluation Concern (Substantive Focus)	What to Address	Point of reference	Evaluation Questions	Source of Information
Relevance	The continued validity of the objectives of the 12 critical areas of concern	The policies, needs and priorities of the specific country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the objectives identified for the three areas address the national needs in relation to the advancement of gender equality? • Are the objectives in line with the government's priorities and policies? • Are the objectives considered useful to the target groups? • Are they complementary to other gender mainstreaming interventions? • Should they be adjusted, eliminated or new ones added in light of new needs, priorities and policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government ministries. • Target groups (opinions). • NGO bodies involved in gender mainstreaming efforts.
Performance:				
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of agreed upon objectives. • Effectiveness of institutional arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategic objectives of the critical areas of concern • Implementation of planned actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have the agreed upon objectives been attained? • Have the programmes contributed to the goal/s of accelerating the implementation of the Platforms for Action? • Have the institutional arrangements in place facilitated the implementation of the Platform? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monitoring reports.
Success:				

Outcomes	Short to medium-term changes resulting from the implementation of the PFA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National leaders values and attitudes; • Organizational systems; • Government and NGOs' policies, plans and programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the implementation of the BFA impacted on national leaders' (government ministers, members of parliament, among others) values and attitudes with regard to gender equality? • How and to what extent have government and NGOs' organizational systems been influenced by the implementation of the PFA • To what extent has the PFA implementation contributed to changes in government and NGOs' policies, plans and programmes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government ministries. • NGOs. • Target groups (opinions). • Monitoring reports.
Sustainability	Durability of positive PFA implementation results.	Institutional arrangements in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the institutional arrangements in place facilitate the continued flow of the benefits set in motion by the implementation of the PFA? • Will the institutional arrangements in place facilitate the use or adoption of the PFA implementation results to different contexts or changing environment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government ministries • NGOs • Monitoring reports.

Annex 2: Guidelines for the Preparation of the National Evaluation Report

The objectives of the evaluation report are to:

- **Evaluate** progress made in the implementation of the PFA. **Demonstrate** concrete achievements in meeting strategic objectives for the three areas of focus;
- **Identify** obstacles and constraints in realizing the strategic objectives; and
- **Recommend** strategic actions to be taken in the light of the evaluation findings.

It is suggested that the evaluation report should contain the following:

1. **Executive Summary:**

This section should be one page long, and should give a brief overview of the main components of the report; what was evaluated; major evaluation findings and conclusions; recommendations; and lessons learned.

2. **Introduction:**

This section should briefly discuss:

- The national, regional and global contexts within which the specific country implemented the PFA;
- A brief overview of the National Plan of Action including programmes for further actions according to the *African Plan of Action* and the *Outcome Document* on Beijing + 5
- The country's assessment of the PFA from its vantage point.

3. **Evaluation Findings:**

This section should contain the following:

- Evaluation findings on the progress that has been made in each of the 12 critical areas of concern. These findings should be related as closely as possible, to the strategic objectives, actions laid out in the PFA, *African Plan of Action* and *the Outcome Document* of Beijing + 5 and the monitoring and evaluation tool. Findings from the annual monitoring exercises should be incorporated.
- A discussion of the obstacles and constraints experienced in the implementation of the PFA in each of the areas of focus.
- Any other evaluation findings.
- Lessons learnt about programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, through the implementation of the PFA

4. **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

This section should contain:

- A summary of the work done, stating how well the goals and objectives were attained;
- Recommendations on the strategic actions to be taken in line with the evaluation findings, so as to realize the full implementation of the PFA and the goal of gender equality.

5. **Appendices:**

The appendices may include information and statistical data collected.