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Meeting of the Committee on Women and Development
Meeting of Experts
9-11 October 2002
Johannesburg, South Africa

**REPORT OF THE EXPERTS MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT (CWD)**

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INTRODUCTION:

1. The meeting of the Experts of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the Balalaika Hotel from 9-11 October 2002. The meeting was attended by delegates from CWD member countries as follows: Angola, Botswana, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Mauritius, Nigeria, Swaziland, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Other countries represented included: Burundi, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tunisia and Uganda. Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) were represented, namely: African Union, (AU), African Development Bank (ADB), *Centre de Recherche de developpement et d'information sur les femmes (CREDIF)*, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Also represented were the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), African Women Development Fund (AWDF) the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC), Pag-La Yiri Zabre, Pan African Womens' Organization (PAWO), and the SADC Parliamentary Forum, (SPF).

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The representative of the South African Government, the Director in the office on the status of women, Ms. Susan Nkomo, welcomed the participants to the meeting on behalf of her Government, especially The Presidency. She acknowledged the contributions of AU Member States to the struggles that led to the liberation of South Africa and the events that led to 1994. The meeting, she said, provided an opportunity for the CWD to make clear future plans as we move towards the end of the women's decade. Ms. Nkomo pointed out that there are at present important initiatives, which African Heads of State have entered into since the Dakar and Beijing Commitments. There was therefore an urgency to see that particular emphasis is given to ensure that we understand how this impacts on the challenge of mainstreaming gender in our continent. There is currently need to assess the progress on engendering national budgets and how these relate to new initiatives on development financing agreed to in Mexico in March 2002; including the commitments arrived at in the Millennium Declaration. She pointed out that the timing of the meeting was opportune and afforded the opportunity to look at programmes geared towards Africa's participation at Beijing + 10 with clarity, especially with regard to the capacity and resources available to Gender Machineries.

Statement by Ms. Josephine Ouedraogo, Director of African Centre for Gender and Development at the opening of the Meeting of Experts

3. In her opening remarks, Ms. Josephine Ouedraogo, Director of the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD), welcomed the participants to the meeting of CWD on behalf of Mr. K. Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). She pointed to the importance of holding the meeting in South Africa, which hosted the birth of AU in Durban in July 2002 and took the opportunity to thank the South African authorities for their warm hospitality and all the facilities placed at the disposal of the CWD meeting. She pointed out that the meeting is being held at a time when the continent is trying to regain its self-confidence and mobilize its resources around the AU and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme.

4. Ms. Ouedraogo underlined that CWD could take responsibility for ensuring that reduction in the gender equality becomes an objective of New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and all its components. She pointed out that NEPAD offers us a strategic framework to better invest our human technical and financial resources in the sectors recognized to be of high priority for our continent, namely:

- Development of infrastructure, particularly energy, transport, information and communication technologies, water and health;
- Development of human resources through poverty reduction efforts and the promotion of education and health;
- Development of agriculture to guarantee food security;
- Protection of the environment and natural resources;
- Promotion of African culture and identity; and finally
- Promotion of Science and technology.

5. Ms. Ouedraogo pointed out that the ECA Conference of Ministers taking place from 19 to 21 October 2002 in this very city of Johannesburg affords an opportunity to bring the matter of reducing gender gaps before the African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. She then highlighted some of the decisions taken by the African Heads of State at the Durban Summit on the establishment of AU.

6. The meeting was reminded that the mandate of the Committee on Women and Development is to make a periodic review of the major challenges facing African women in their quest for justice and dignity and to evaluate, in the face of these challenges, the relevance of the policies and strategies being implemented by countries, inter-governmental institutions and non governmental organizations and to put forward recommendations for the attention of policy makers.

7. In this connection, Ms. Ouedraogo then highlighted some of the decisions taken by the African Heads of State at the Durban Summit on the establishment of the African Union, where it was decided that:

- i. The programme on gender equality will be based in the cabinet of the Chairperson of the Commission and will be an autonomous unit;
- ii. The chairperson of the Commission shall have the primary responsibility for issues of gender equality within the African Union;
- iii. 50 % of the future commissioners will be women.

8. On the incorporation of gender issues in AU, Ms. Ouedraogo lauded the efforts of African women who, through their tireless and sustained sensitisation, advocacy and lobbying efforts, had managed not only to have the issues of gender inequality included in the agenda of the Durban Summit, but also to secure the adoption of these institutional mechanisms in the AU structure. This, she pointed out, was unprecedented in the annals of our political organization.

9. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that our countries support the African Union in the implementation of its decisions.

10. She reminded the meeting that the Committee on Women and Development is responsible for organizing that review under the technical coordination of the ECA's African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) in collaboration with other agencies within the United Nations system.

11. During the mid-term review that had been organized within the framework of the sixth African Regional Conference on Women, held in Addis Ababa in November 1999, the activities had been structured around three main themes:

- i. Governments' interest in reducing the Gender gap, which ought to be the most important theme of all heads of sectoral departments. To increase the efforts of Governments in reducing gender inequalities, it was recommended that systems of accountability should be put in place or strengthened;
- ii. Increasing the production and use of statistical data disaggregated by sex. Without gender-disaggregated data, it is impossible to have precise and proper knowledge of the factors that perpetuate gender inequalities between women and men in key development sectors;
- iii. Increase in the activities aimed at controlling the AIDS pandemic and combating poverty, illiteracy and armed conflicts, scourges that mostly affect the African women.

12. These themes should serve as benchmarks for all stakeholders and at governmental and non-governmental levels as well as reference points during the review of the decade and after Beijing.

13. Ms. Ouedraogo stressed the urgent need to create collective conscience particularly at the political level, both within governments and among civil society leaders for reassessing patterns, strategies and practices that degrade women while at the same time excluding them from decision-making structures both in public and private sectors. She pointed out that the problems encountered by the poverty reduction strategies can no longer be attributed solely to lack of financial resources but rather reluctance to take into account the gender gap in poverty-related evaluations, resource analysis and household activities as well as the mechanisms for evaluating and planning national resources.

14. Ms. Ouedraogo hoped that the Committee on Women and Development would, at the time of reviewing the Post-Beijing Decade, both in terms of action by national governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, invite the head of each policy sector to account for the efforts he/she had made towards the reduction of the gender gap in his/she sphere of activity in the areas of health, education, agriculture, the environment, national budget, the private sector, industrialization, justice, water supply and so on. It is against this background, that the African Centre for Gender and Development is in the process of implementing its follow-up and evaluation programme on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for action while building the capacities of countries and NGOs in using the gender approach.

15. The Programme of work of the Committee is structured around three major points:

- i. Presentation of the main programmes of ACGD, which are of direct concern to countries at the national and subregional levels;
- ii. Presentation of the activity report of intergovernmental bodies particularly, African Union (AU), African Development Bank (ADB) and subregional economic communities;
- iii. Renewal of CWD membership for 2002- 2004.

16. In conclusion, Ms. Ouedraogo wished the delegates a happy stay in Johannesburg and assured the meeting that the team from the secretariat, made up mostly of her colleagues from the African Centre for Gender and Development and the ECA Conference Division, would do everything possible to facilitate the task of the Committee.

17. The Chairperson of the meeting of the experts of CWD, Ms. Rachel Simbabure, representing Zimbabwe, welcomed all the delegates to the meeting. She noted that the attendance of member States was an indication of their commitment and how seriously they took gender issues. She acknowledged and welcomed the presence of a number of ministers attending the Experts Meeting. She went on to thank the host country, South Africa, for her wonderful hospitality and excellent

facilities that have been availed to the participants. She pointed out that the meeting should reflect on how to fight for gender equity in the African continent.

18. Ms. Simbabure reminded the meeting that this was the last session of the current membership of the Bureau, and that the Bureau would be renewed again during this meeting for the next two years (2002-2004). Ms. Simbabure applauded the decisions that were taken by our Heads of States at the Durban Conference on the inauguration of the African Union (AU): especially the decision to mainstream Gender in the AU structures and programmes. The Chief of Gender Unit, Dr. Mary Maboreke would provide more information on how gender will be mainstreamed into the AU.

19. Ms. Simbabure pointed out that we are only two years way from completing a Decade since the Conference on Women was held in Beijing in 1994. There was therefore need to take stock in order to establish how far Africa had gone in implementing the resolutions of the Beijing Declaration and most importantly in relation to Gender Budgeting. For countries that have already started on this programme, Ms. Simbabure urged them to continue while those that had not yet started should learn from others. Another critical strategy is the development National Gender Policies. In this connection, she hoped that most countries have now finalized these policies and started to implement them.

20. Ms. Simbabure thanked the member States who had sent officials to Gaborone, Botswana for training in the monitoring and evaluation tool and hoped that bureaucracy will not be an impediment to implementation of these national gender policies.

21. On issues of peace and security, Ms. Simbabure went on to observe that wars, famine and diseases continued to plague the continent, especially affecting and compromising the situation of the girl-child. She acknowledged the peace process in Angola and the DRC, but pointed to the fresh fighting in Burundi and in Cote D'Ivoire, which is a cause for concern. In line with the UN Security Council Resolution of 2000 women should be included in the Peace processes, management and prevention of conflict at the highest levels. During this time when many countries are going through elections, it is hoped that many women will find their way into Parliamentary and Cabinet posts and key decision-making positions.

22. Ms. Simbabure pointed out that IGOs had done well in our continent and must be thanked for their work in implementing government's efforts in gender issues. Non-governmental organisations should remain focused in Developmental Programmes and be effective: NGO involvement in politics is bound to jeopardize their interventions and undermine their credibility. In her concluding remarks, she called for open dialogue with religious orders whose houses harbor many women. She also thanked the SRDCs for their support to member States in different sub-regions in co-ordinating gender activities at this level and the Secretariat for a job well done in coordinating gender activities at the continental level.

23. She added that the ECA Secretariat (ACGD) should be thanked for a job well done in co-ordinating continental activities. On this note the Chairperson of Expert meeting declared the meeting officially open.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

24. The major Agenda items below were presented and adopted by the Committee with a comment that the SADC Parliamentary Forum would present a report on engendering SADC Parliaments.

- i. Analytical framework on the process for engendering national accounts and national budget
- ii. Framework for the evaluation of the implementation of the African and Beijing Plans of Action at national, subregional and regional levels (Beijing + 10)
- iii. The African Gender and Development Index
- iv. Activity Reports of SRDCs
- v. Reports of Intergovernmental Bodies (AU, ADB, RECs)
- vi. Modalities for the Renewal of CWD Membership and Bureau for 2003-2004
- vii. Any Other Business
- viii. Adoption of the Synthesis Report of the Meeting of Experts

AGENDA ITEM 3: Presentation of Analytical Framework on the Process for Engendering National Accounts and National Budget

25. In presenting the paper on mainstreaming gender into national accounts and national budget, Mr. Alfred Latigo informed the meeting that the programme focuses on women's work in "non-market economy (NME)", which significantly underpins the society and the overall economy. Women's work contributes significantly to income generation, long-term growth and poverty reduction. He indicated that a study conducted by ECA and its partners in 2000 confirmed that Africa has enormous unexploited potential in its people, especially, in its women who provide more than 50% of the region's labour, and that, gender equality can be a potent force for poverty reduction in Africa. He contended that of the key policy measures for promoting gender-inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa, making gender issues visible in statistics and national planning instruments is an important initiative. Until now, women's work, which has been identified as a key area of policy intervention by the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action has been traditionally underestimated in National Accounts and ignored in budgetary process in Africa. Measurement and integration of women's work would give accurate picture of their contribution to GDP and better policy actions and resource allocation for poverty reduction.

26. Mr. Latigo outlined the goal of this programme as to strengthen the capacity of survey statisticians and national accountants (economists and statisticians) in African countries to use national accounts and national budget as tools to translate time-use data and statistics on women's work into policy agenda. Ultimately, this will motivate policy makers to mobilize action and resources towards this economy as one new approach to reduce poverty in Africa. The specific objectives of the programme are to:

- i. Create awareness and motivate policy-makers to invest in greater application of time-use surveys and place in policy agenda the issue of women's work in non-market economy;
- ii. Establish the extent to which women's work in non-market economy is currently being included (if at all) into national accounts and in national budgetary process;
- iii. Improve concepts, tools and methodologies for integrating women's work into national planning instruments with a view to establishing appropriate standards for Africa;
- iv. Strengthen the capacity of survey statisticians and national accountants in six African countries to use the refined concepts, tools and methodologies; and
- v. Support the development of tools for evaluating the effectiveness of policies and strategies to improve women's welfare, increase growth and reduce poverty, and build the capacity of policy makers to use these tools in six countries.

27. Mr. Latigo then explained that national accounts and national budgets are important tools for mainstreaming gender into national development plans. Integrating women's work in national accounts allows accurate analysis of inequality in the distribution of work between NME and market economy, productivity changes in NME and the contribution of women's work into GDP. He explained that budgets are appropriate entry points for engendering macroeconomic policies

(fiscal, monetary and exchange policies) because analysis and evaluation of impacts of budgets on women's welfare and the economy can be completed in a short time as budgets have annual cycle and can be implemented at country-level with small resources. He clarified that Gender Sensitive Budgets (GSBs), which should be adopted by all countries are not separate budgets for women or men, but that it can be regarded as gender-audits of budget. He informed that currently there are 18 countries world-wide with GSB initiatives and 9 of these are in Africa: Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. GSBs ensure that public expenditures are consistent with development policies, overall budget is pro-poor, resource allocation prioritised to the needs of both women and men, and development impacts across all sectors benefit both women and men.

28. Mr. Latigo however warned that to be able to capture the benefits of mainstreaming women's work in national planning instruments, four challenges have to be overcome as identified by ACGD's Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting in May 2002 and a field study by ACGD. The challenges relate to: lack of time-use data as the main tool for measuring women's work; little understanding between women's work and national budget; how to put into practice existing theoretical gender-aware budget analytical tools to evaluate effectiveness of policies and strategies on poverty reduction; and low national capacity to engender national planning instruments.

29. Based on the challenges identified by ACGD's Ad hoc Expert Group Meeting and confirmation by inventory studies in member states, CWD should recommend to the Conference of Ministers of Finance and Ministers of economic Development and Planning, that each country should have greater use of time-use surveys to generate gender disaggregated data for measuring and integrating women's work into national accounts and national budget.

30. Mr. Latigo concluded his presentation by outlining the next major steps in the programme for the period 2003 - 2005: (i) development of an Africa-specific "Easy Reference Guide (ERG) and a gender-aware model; (ii) design of a capacity building programme based on the ERG and model; (iii) internal/external reviews and validation of the capacity building programme; (iv) implementation of the capacity building programme; (v) and supporting member states in applying communication and advocacy strategies.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Framework for the evaluation of the implementation of the African and Beijing Plans of Action at national, subregional and regional levels (Beijing + 10)

31. Framework for evaluation of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action 2003-2004.

32. The *Framework for Evaluation of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action* was presented by Hannah Tiagha. 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 of 2002-2004**, and the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session to review Beijing + 5.

33. To this end, ACGD developed the Monitoring and Evaluation (M & E) Programme on the implementation of the African Plan of Action, which 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; and Monitoring and evaluating the status and capacity of institutional mechanisms to facilitate implementation of the gender policies.

34. While 21 countries, current members of CWD are participating in the Programme, each country is focusing on 7 sectors, namely Agriculture, commerce and industry, health, planning,

finance, women affairs and the national coordinating NGO. To build the capacity of the member States to implement the M & E Programme, 7 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 monitoring reports are to be synthesized into national reports and forwarded to ECA every 6 months.

35. The objectives of the comprehensive evaluation of the Platforms for Action are: to assess the **relevance, implications and the sustainability** of the implementation; and to evaluate implementation and results attained in the 12 critical areas of concern.

36. In addition to evaluating the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, additional issues that were recommended in the African Plan of Action adopted by the Sixth Regional Conference on Women and the Outcome Document of the UN GA Special Session on Beijing + 5 will be taken into consideration. These issues are summarized in document E/ECA/ACGD/CWD.III/2002/5

37. Countries participating in the M & E Programme will submit 2 reports to the SRDCs namely a synthesized report on progress made in the implementation of the Platforms ; and a national evaluation report on progress made in the implementation of the African Plan of Action .

38. With regard to the modalities for evaluation at the national level, the evaluation exercise should be conducted between August and December 2003. A national multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral committee (National Technical Committee) should be established to take charge of the evaluation process Technically and to convene a national meeting of stakeholders to validate the evaluation report between January and February 2004. By March 2004, national evaluation reports should be submitted to the ECA Subregional Development Centres (SRDCs).

39. At the subregional level, the SRDCs will synthesize the national reports between April and June 2004 and submit them to the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts (ICE) for discussion and consensus building on the subregional priority gender issues. SRDCs should submit their reports to ACGD by end of July.

40. At the regional level, ACGD will synthesize subregional evaluation reports into one regional report and submit it to the Regional High Level Consultative Meeting in November 2004 for discussion and consensus building on priority gender issues and the way forward. This will constitute Africa's input into the global Beijing + 10 review conference in 2005. Ministers from the 7 sectors participating in the M & E Programme should attend the meeting. Besides, the RECs, AU, ECA and ADB will prepare evaluation reports and present them directly at the Regional High Level Consultative Meeting.

41. In the discussion that followed, the Experts congratulated the presenter on the quality of the document, its clarity and the relevance of the information it contains. They also appreciated the training workshops that had been conducted in the sub-regions on M & E and its implementation. They expressed concern, however, that 7 M & E Officers trained per country were not sufficient to implement the Programme. And that, the implementation had significant implications on human and financial resources. In this regard, the Experts requested ECA for additional assistance besides training. Some participants suggested that other sectors and parliamentarians should be sensitized about the importance of mainstreaming gender in their work.

42. Other participants felt that the education sector should have been included in the M & E Programme. They also felt that NGOs should prepare evaluation reports separate from the government reports in order to express their view points without inhibition. They were also concerned about the limited extent to which gender was integrated in NEPAD. Some South African women groups had made recommendations as to how NEPAD, the structures of the African Union

should be engendered. It was also suggested that it would be useful to sensitize other intergovernmental bodies such as the RECs and NGO's through the national NGO's on the work of ACGD.

43. In response to some questions, participants were informed by Ms. Tiagha that ACGD had written to various UN agencies requesting them to support the implementation of the M & E Programme. The Director added that ACGD would also write to the country representatives of the UN agencies with the same request and ask the Ministers in charge of gender to follow up. She also informed of ECA's efforts to mainstream gender in NEPAD at its drafting stage and subsequently through the contact group established during ADF 2002.

Recommendations on the evaluation of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

44. The CWD recommend that the ministers responsible for Economic and Social Development Planning and Finance resolve:

- i. To reaffirm their commitment to advocate and promote the integration of the gender perspective in all development policies, plans and programmes at the national, sub regional and regional levels.
- ii. To involve all the line ministries and other government structures in the evaluation of progress made in mainstreaming gender in their policies, plans and programmes within the framework of the assessment of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action in 2005, 10 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women.
- iv. To allocate the necessary resources for mainstreaming gender in all sectoral ministries
- v. To promote and facilitate the establishment of structures and mechanisms for regularly monitoring the state of gender mainstreaming in all government ministries and departments and periodically evaluating the status of the gender gap in all sectors.
- vi. To support the participation of the Gender Unit in the African Union and ACGD in the regular activities of NEPAD.

AGENDA ITEM 5: The African Gender and Development Index the African women's report: theme – African gender development index

45. The Director of the African Center for Gender and Development, Ms. Josephine Ouedraogo, presented the African Women's Report for 2002-2003 to the CWD meeting of Experts. She informed the meeting that the African Women's Report as one of ECA's four Flagship Publications, and indicated that the two previous issues of the AWR had focused on women's contribution to Economic Development; and Post conflict reconstruction: the gender perspective in 1995 and 1998 respectively.

46. Since the AWR is a unique publication focused on gender issues at the level of Africa, in 1998, the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) decided to review the goal and the conceptual framework of the Report. The objective is to ensure that the AWR will become a channel to:

- Provide African policy makers, gender planners, politicians and women's organizations with a periodic report on progress made on the status of women;
- Disseminate successful experience on gender mainstreaming; and
- An advocacy tool for the implementation of the various platforms for the advancement of women

47. Ms. Ouedraogo reported that ACGD had decided to develop an African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) which will be used for measuring the extent of gender equality in African countries. The AWR 2002/2003 will present the AGDI and the results of the field trials of the Index in eleven countries. The development of the AGDI arises from the apparent inadequacies of conventional Indices to capture and comprehensively measure the realities of women in Africa. A review of the existing Gender Indices such as the Gender-related Development Index (GDI), the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) and the Gender Equality Index among others, was undertaken by ACGD in early 2002. This assessment focused on analysing the diversity; complexity of the variables; and effectiveness as related to the African context of these indices. The outcome of this assessment was reviewed by an Expert Working Group in March 2002, who confirmed the utility of an African Gender Index and validated its outline. She emphasized that the Index is a work in progress and is being subjected to ECA's quality control mechanism. This mechanism includes an Advisory Panel comprising African and international experts, institutions such as SADC, and UN agencies especially those who have developed existing indices, and African countries.

48. The second part of the presentation provided a description of the AGDI. The Index will consist of two-parts namely: the Gender Status Index (GSI) and the African Women's Progress Score Board. The GSI will use **quantitative** indicators to measure gender equality. It will consist of three-blocks, namely:

- Social power: includes variables such as education and health;
- Economic power: includes variables such as income and labour forces; and
- Political power: includes variables such as senior or higher political and management positions.

49. The African Women's Progress Score board will measure **qualitative** variables of Women's Empowerment such as CEDAW, Customary law system, harmful traditional practices, family violence, land rights, free contraception and HIV/AIDS prevention; using indicators such as the existence of national laws, policy commitment, budgetary allocations, and provision of training and information.

50. Ms. Ouedraogo summarized the process and methodology for the development of the AGDI and noted that the process will take 2 years (2002 –2003), and would include the following steps:

- A review of gender indices which include collection and analysis of existing indices (2002)
- The definition of the theoretical framework of the gender index (2002)
- The finalization of the AGDI (2002)
- A validation of the AGDI by an Advisory panel (2002)
- Field trials in 11 countries (2002 – 2003) namely: Uganda, Tanzania, Cameroon, Gabon, Egypt, Tunisia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mozambique and South Africa.
- An analysis of the results of the field trials (2003)
- The production and launching of the African Women's Report 2002/03 which will provide information of 11 countries

51. The report noted that the next African Women's Report 2004/05 aims to provide information on all the 53 African countries

52. In conclusion, Ms. Ouedraogo proposed that if the CWD meeting agreed that the AGDI will be a relevant tool that will provide African policy makers and other stakeholders with periodic information on progress made on the status of women in Africa, it should recommend to the

Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to include AGDI as part of the gender mainstreaming process within NEPAD.

53. During the discussion that followed, participants thanked Ms. Ouedraogo for the presentation, which raised critical issues that required scrutiny. ACGD was commended for spearheading the efforts to develop an Index specific to Africa. The meeting noted that AGDI would provide member States with a unique opportunity to streamline the existing ad hoc processes of reporting on CEDAW and sub-regional instruments. It also noted the importance of ensuring that the social and economic indicators in the NEPAD peer review mechanism reflect gender perspectives as agreed upon by the Heads of AU. The meeting commended the involvement of research institutions in the development of AGDI, which would provide African countries with uniform indicators for measuring gender equality. The meeting underlined the significance of redefining the social dimension to reflect African cultural issues such as patriarchy as well as incorporate African regional instruments. It was noted that AGDI would be a viable tool to lobby for issues such as debt cancellation.

54. The participants pointed out that the process raises the issue of capacity of member States to use the Index to report progress made in gender mainstreaming within each country. The representative of South Africa noted that great strides had been made in Africa in this area including SADC efforts but that programmes for development of indicators needed to be improved upon. She gave the example of a Statistical Report of men and women in South Africa which contains a lot of the indicators that the AGDI intends to capture under the social power block, but noted that the South African report is deficient in that it does not go further to interpret data in order to provide policy makers with the tools to concretely measure progress.

55. The representative of Ghana commended the fact that research institutions were being involved in the development of the AGDI. African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) would provide African countries with uniform indicators for measuring gender equality and women's empowerment in the Africa region and emphasized the need for the Index to obtain and utilize primary gender disaggregated data.

56. The ECA was encouraged to continue working towards solutions for measuring progress and shortfalls in gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa by a representative of ECOWAS. She was pleased that ECA was working in this area and paying particular attention to the African context. The representative challenged the process of developing the AGDI so as ensure that it highlights gender progress in Africa and how these have been achieved. She reiterated that as the Index is being articulated it is crucial for the social dimension to be redefined to capture key issues in Africa particularly issues relating to patriarchy. The Index will also highlight discrimination and its causes which had not been measured in current intellectual work. She concluded by emphasizing the importance for the African Women's Progress Report to incorporate both international and African regional instruments such as the African Charter.

57. The representative from COMESA also commended the ECA noting that the Index is one of the best things that can happen for Africa women. She noted that the AGDI would be a viable tool that can be used to lobby for specific issues such as debt forgiveness in Africa and trade issues.

58. Sierra Leone lauded the idea of having an African Women's Report (AWR) that will highlight the gender successes. She pointed out that the AGDI would help to build the capacity of ministries responsible for gender to argue for more resources to improve their programs.

59. In responding to the various comments, Ms. Ouedraogo thanked the participants for their reactions and pertinent suggestions, noting that they will be taken on board to ensure that the AGDI is a joint instrument of all African countries. She proposed that the AGDI could be presented to the African Ministers responsible for gender during the ministerial meeting that the participants had

recommend AU and CWD organize so as to establish how it could be improved and build regional ownership of the Index.

AGENDA ITEM 6: SRDCs Activity Reports

SRDC Southern Africa Presentation

60. In presenting the activity report for SRDC/SA, Ms. Lomayani informed the meeting that, the overarching goal of SRDC/SA programme is to mainstream gender into national and sub-regional policies, programmes and processes with a view to advancing gender equality and gender equity as a process of transforming development planning and programming to address the needs and aspirations of both women and men. She indicated that programme focus and application of result-based methodology is utilized. The strategic methodology applied is forging strategic linkages, structured partnerships and networks with specific stakeholders. The presenter elaborated the following three major areas of gender mainstreaming activities undertaken by SADC/SA during the reporting period.

(i) Mainstreaming Gender into the SADC HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework

61. Ms. Lomayani informed the meeting that in 2000 the SRDC/SA had organized an Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting, which reviewed the SADC HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework and found it “**not gender sensitive**”. In this connection, the meeting recommended that the Framework should be engendered as a matter of urgency. The meeting also proposed the process for the implementation of the framework. For example, it was recommended to organize a workshop for the stakeholders to further highlight the gender gaps and draw up an action plan to engender the SADC HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework.

62. The SRDC/SA engaged the services of a Team of consultants who further reviewed the Framework, highlighted gender and human rights gaps and proposed actions to address the gaps. The consultants’ report constituted the framework for the workshop which was organized for the SADC Mining, and the SADC Employment and Labour Sectors. The workshop further analysed the Framework and the two SADC sectors drew up their respective action plans part of which are now already under implementation. The action plan provides a blue print for fund raising for the implementation of the follow-up activities to engender the SADC Strategic Framework under the over all co-ordination of the Health Sector Co-ordinating Unit.

(ii) Promoting Women’s Access to, Control and Ownership of Land in Southern Africa

63. The meeting was informed that despite efforts to access women to land, including many studies, lobbying and advocacy, and legislations the issue of women’s land rights still remained a critical and unresolved problem. Building on work done and work in progress, the SRDC/SA in collaboration with the Land Lobby Group in Zimbabwe and in Southern Africa and the Women and Development Awareness Project in Southern Africa convened, in April 2002, a Round Table to concretise related action to address the Women Land Rights issue. The most important factor limiting women’s land rights is land tenure policy systems. These in turn are based on:

- Traditional practices unfavourable to women;
- Perpetuation of the colonial land distribution practices and;
- Resistance to, and/or slow pace of reforming constitutions and legal frameworks to accommodate women’s land rights.

64. Taking note of a related study carried out in Eastern Africa, the Round Table had recommended that due to many similarities, the Women Land issue should be jointly addressed in the framework of Eastern and Southern Africa. The specific recommended were:

- Build Platforms for Action on Women's Land Rights at national and Sub-Regional levels;
- Operationalize proposed related implementable actions at National and Sub-Regional levels;
- Conduct a study on Gender and Land Tenure Systems in Eastern and Southern Africa;
- In order to implement these strategies, the major action is to establish a Platform for Action for Women Land Rights for Eastern and Southern Africa.

(c) Advisory Services to Member States

65. The meeting was informed that, following a request from the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare of the Republic Namibia for ECA to assist them in gender mainstreaming into national policies and programmes, ACGD Regional Advisor and SRDC/SA Gender Focal Point along with Namibia counterparts had carried out an institutional assessment of the national key gender actors; prioritised main weaknesses and recommendations to address the shortcomings; and designed a gender mainstreaming programme.

66. During the discussions that ensued, the participants commended the presentation as truly reflecting gender-mainstreaming activities pertaining to major issues of gender concern, especially the gender response to HIV/AIDS pandemic and women access to and control of land. Several participants pointed out that the issue of women's land rights was a major problem in other sub-regions and the concept of establishing a Common Platform among sub-regions was recommended as an effective way of addressing the women's land rights issue.

67. Botswana reported that following the workshop in integrating gender and human rights into SADC HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework, the Ministry of Gender, UNDP, De Beers and other partners had already started their implementation of their respective action plans.

68. A major concern was methodology for establishing and operationalization of the Common Platform on Women Land Rights. SRDC/SA informed the meeting that the Round Table on Women and Land has defined the whole process. Committee on Women and Development was therefore called upon to endorse the idea in principle while the recommendation would be presented to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (CE) of SRDC/SA to be held in Lesotho in the first quarter of 2003.

69. In response to some of the queries, Mrs. Josephine Ouadraogo, the Director of ACGD, reminded the participants that Regional Advisory technical services are available upon requests directly to ACGD or to the Directors of respective SRDCs.

70. The Minister of Rwanda once gain re-iterated the need to have effective gender services in Kigali after transfer of the Gender Focal Point.

The Activity Report of SRDC West Africa

71. The report of SRDC/ WA was presented by Ms. Dorothy Iwuji. She informed the meeting that SRDC/WA had organized two expert Committee meetings during the period under review at which two progressive reports on gender mainstreaming were presented. These were:

- The need for promoting sub-regional integration through regional and global Gender mainstreaming initiatives.
- Mainstreaming gender concerns in Development Policies and programmes.

72. These reports reminded the member states of their commitments to global instruments on women and gender, and addressed in particular the following issues:

- i. The extent to which member States had fulfilled their commitments.
- ii. The reasons for their poor performances.
- iii. Initiatives to be taken in order to achieve better results.
- iv. Formulation of national gender mainstreaming policies.

73. Following the discussions that informed the reports, Intergovernmental Committee of Experts the (ICE) meetings offered recommendations for gender mainstreaming and policy formulations in social and economic development in the subregion.

74. Most of the recommendations have been implemented and others are in process.

75. In this regard, the Centre has produced guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming Networking and Information Exchange. The Guidelined have been reviewed by individuals and by an Expert Group meeting, and are in the process of being published and disseminated.

76. The Centre has developed a project document to mobilize funds for implementing one of the important recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting; that is, the establishment of a Gender Mainstreaming Clearing House in the Sub-region. The Clearing House will be a source for up-to-date and reliable gender disaggregated data for effective planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating of gender mainstreaming activities. It will also create linkages with gender institutions, organizations, researchers, programme planners and programme implementers.

77. The Centre is conducting a study on the status of gender mainstreaming perspectives in the national policies and programmes in the sub-region. A questionnaire has been produced and distributed and the report will be ready in December 2002.

78. The Centre has collaborated with UN Agencies and ACGD in conducting gender mainstreaming training on policy development in some countries in the sub-region.

79. The Centre has consistently assisted and supported ECOWAS in gender mainstreaming capacity building for designing and implementing gender mainstreaming policies and programmes in its Secretariat and in Member States: e.g., supporting ECOWAS in revitalizing the West African Women Association (WAWA), which is going through crises at present. WAWA is a specialized agency of ECOWAS and is mandated to oversee the advancement of women in the sub-region.

Activities Related to International Cooperation and Inter-Agency Coordination and Liaison

80. The SRDC-WA has been involved in a number of activities aimed at strengthening gender mainstreaming in social activities and economic cooperation and integration in the sub-region. The activities listed below have been implemented:

- (i) The Centre was backed up by ACGD in organizing a technical workshop on development of gender mainstreaming policy for ECOWAS. The meeting succeed in producing the guidelines for developing gender-mainstreaming policy for ECOWAS and gender advocacy partners. These partners include Commonwealth Secretariat, ILO and UNIFEM who have accepted to provide gender specialists to develop gender mainstreaming policies and strategies for ECOWAS. These will be ready for submission to ECOWAS policy organs, for

adoption, in December 2002. The experts from the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNIFEM are to work with ECOWAS until a Gender Department is established in its secretariat.

- (ii) A joint ACGD/SRDC-WA/UNFPA training workshop on gender mainstreaming for policy makers and senior staff in government ministries WAS HELD IN Niamey and Zinder, Niger.
- (iii) SRDC-WA along with gender focal points from other UN agencies assisted the Niger Ministry of Women's Affairs in planning and recruiting a consultant for identifying gender-mainstreaming indicators.
- (iv) The Centre participated in the training of gender focal points in English speaking countries from West and North African SRDCs (Nigeria and Sudan) in gender mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation, in relation to the implementation of the Beijing Platforms for action.
- (v) It also participated in the ACGD AD-Hoc expert group meeting on mainstreaming gender perspectives into national budgeting and accounting, in Yaounde, Cameroon.

Operational Activities

81. The SRDC/WA is playing an important role in the development of peace programme in the Mano River Basin Countries. The overall objective of this initiative is to support the government of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone to undertake joint economic and development projects targeted at consolidating peace and stability in the three countries. The projects address the sub-regional dimension of post-conflict restructuring, concentrating, initially, on revitalization of the Mano-River Union Secretariat, economic management training, networking among civil society organizations, and establishment of joint security structures. Three projects proposals on gender issues are being developed for integration into the revitalization process, namely, training of trainers in income generating economic activities for women affected by war, economic empowerment of women, and engendering the peace process. Plans for implementation of these projects are on course. The centre will follow-up on the project on the Gender mainstreaming network and information exchange.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Reports of Intergovernmental Bodies (AU, ADB, RECs)

Report of the African Union (AU)

82. The presentation of AU was two pronged, namely: on the activities undertaken by the AU Gender and Development Division as a follow-up to the outcome of the Sixth Regional Conference on Women and the Beijing plus 5 Conference; and on activities undertaken by the Division in engendering AU during the period under review.

83. In her presentation, Mrs. Yetunde Teriba, Research and Communication Officer on Gender and Development highlighted the following gender related activities: the development of an AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing; trafficking in women in Africa; women and drug abuse and trafficking HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases; women's human rights and the protocol on women; women in the peace process and activities related to the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET) and the peace mission to Congo DRC; engendering NEPAD; education of the girl-child; economic empowerment of women; and, collaborative activities with other stakeholders.

84. Dr. Mary Maboreke, Head of the AU Division for Gender and Development noted that AU is the first continental organization in the world to commit, at the level of Heads of State and Government, to gender parity with a 50% women representation as the starting point in the staffing/personel of AU.

85. She recalled the various activities undertaken by the Division in ensuring that gender was taken on board at various levels of policy decision-making on the structure of AU, starting from the OAU Council of Ministers in March 2002. She also recalled the Workshop on Engendering the African Union and the various recommendations emanating therefrom.

86. She thanked and congratulated all these who worked with the division to ensure that gender was mainstreamed into AU.

87. Dr. Maboreke then briefed the meeting on the various decisions that had been taken by the Commission. She also appealed for continued advocacy regarding adequate resourcing of the AU gender machinery, especially as relates to the status of the machinery, the size of its personnel and equipment. She concluded by emphasizing the need for strategic partnering among all stakeholders.

88. In the ensuing discussion, participants congratulated the presenters for the report, and commended African Heads of State and Government for their commitment to mainstream gender into the all structures, policies and programmes of AU. The meeting underlined the need for a strategic partnership between all stakeholders in order to concretize the Durban Decisions. Participants also stressed that the responsibility for disseminating and acting on the information devolved on all, especially those at the local, national and subregional levels, particularly as regards the identification of possible candidates, and lobbying the relevant personages. The central role of women politicians and parliamentarians in the AU process at the NEPAD programme was stressed.

Report of the African Development Bank (ADB)

89. The report of ADB was presented by Ms. Lalla Maiga, Senior Gender Expert. It noted that ADB is the largest multilateral financial Institution on the African continent whose central goal is to promote sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty in Africa. Its major activities relative to the implementation of the Beijing and African Platforms of Action include the formulation of the ADB Gender policy and the recruitment of Gender Experts within the country Departments of the Bank. The Policy aims to promote gender equality, poverty reduction and sustainable human and economic development in Africa. The policy provides the framework for action, aimed at ensuring equal access by women and men to the Bank's development resources with an objective of mainstreaming gender within the Bank's operations and through supporting the efforts of Regional Member Countries (RMCs) to attain gender equality objectives.

90. Priority areas of the African Development Bank include agriculture and rural development, governance and social sectors. The bank's Gender Policy is being implemented at the programming and institutional levels. Activities undertaken include the setting up of a task force on the development of the gender Plan of Action, formulation of guidelines for gender mainstreaming, development of gender training materials, gender budget, inter-agency collaboration and technical advisory services to member States.

91. During the discussion that followed, some participants inquired as to how the Bank's policies are determined. The representative of the Bank informed the meeting that the priorities are determined in consultation with Regional member countries during dialogue meetings, preparation of Country Strategy Papers, and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. The meeting was informed that there was also a vision document that determines the Bank's priority areas. Other participants wanted to know the mechanism used by ADB to mainstream gender at the country level. Ms. Maiga pointed out that gender mainstreaming is carried out through systematic incorporation of

gender in all instruments, the incorporation of the gender dimension in the project cycle and the Bank's advocacy role.

Report of the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS)

92. In presenting the report of the ECOWAS, the Principal Officer, Social and Cultural Affairs of ECOWAS, Mr. Kennedy Barisa, informed the meeting that ECOWAS' perspective on gender is stressed in its revised treaty in which Member States undertake to cooperate and ensure effective integration of gender and development in the region. This requires elaboration of appropriate policies and implementation mechanisms and fostering coordination between member States. To this effect ECOWAS/SRDC-WA commissioned a study in 2000 that aimed to strengthen the West African Women Association (WAWA) created in 1987 and entrusted with mobilizing women and furthering their role in the economic and social development of the subregion.

93. During the discussion that ensued, the meeting made several recommendations including:

- i. Putting in place a gender management system structure for gender mainstreaming in ECOWAS;
- ii. i.i. the incorporation of the principle of equality in legal systems and abolishing all discriminatory laws;
- iii. The constituting committee that includes United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO), The Commonwealth Secretariat, ECA/SRDC and ECOWAS to draft a policy document;
- iv. Setting up adequate structures and developing an implementation Plan of Action to follow the adoption of this gender policy document.

94. The meeting was informed that towards this end, two consultants had been recruited by the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Commonwealth secretariats and are now working with the ECOWAS Secretariat, in the drafting of the gender policy document.

95. Other participants raised issues of human trafficking of women and children for which a plan of action was adopted in Ghana.

Report of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

96. The Expert for Women in Business and Gender Affairs in COMESA, Ms. Katherine Ichoya presented the report. She stated that COMESA is the largest and most successful regional economic cooperation grouping in Africa consisting of 20 Member States whose thrust is to promote regional integration through trade and investment promotion. She highlighted COMESA's achievements in the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action as follows:

97. COMESA had formulated a Gender Policy, which was approved by the Council of Ministers and endorsed by the COMESA authorities and Heads of State and Government at their seven Summit held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 2002.

98. She stressed that the process leading to the formulation of the COMESA Gender Policy included broad-based consultations of various stakeholders including Gender Experts from governments, NGOs, Private sector, academia and civil society organizations

99. The regional critical analysis of socio-economic situation undertaken by COMESA confirmed that gender disparities and gaps still exist in sectors such as trade, industry, agriculture, ICT, infrastructure among others. In order to redress this situation, COMESA was developing a comprehensive plan of action, establishing COMESA gender committees and mobilizing resources

to facilitate the fostering of gender perspectives into regional integration and cooperation and to mainstream gender into its policies, programmes and activities.

100. The report also outlined the following activities undertaken to enhance the regional integration process:

101. Establishment of business associations for the business community e.g. Federation of national associations of women in business in COMESA (FEMCOM), African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) desk in COMESA secretariat, training in entrepreneurship, leadership skills, and ICT.

102. The COMESA representative further highlighted issues that continue to be of critical concern for integration of women into mainstreaming regional and international trade. Some of these issues included:

- Lack of appropriate technologies.
- Weak linkages between sectors within and across national boundaries.
- Credit policies that do not take into account gender differences, especially women's inability to raise collateral.
- The need to identify knowledge gaps and to create opportunities for women's access to ICTs for entrepreneurship development.

The African Women's Development Fund :

103. The report of The AWDF was presented by Joana Foster who pointed out that AWDF was the only fundraising, grant making organization in Africa whose major Mission is to mobilize financial, human and material resources to support local, national and international initiatives of women. Ms. Foster pointed out that the objective is to make women's voices heard, and to enable them do what they need to do in their countries. The initial idea for an Africa wide Fund was proposed first in 1994. Since then, three African women namely: Ms. Joana Foaster , Ms. Bisi Adeleye Fayemi and Ms. Hilda Tatria have worked to establish the organization which became operational one and half years ago with Headquarters in Accra, Ghana. Ms. Foster continued:

- i. The AWDF has so far given out US\$ 800,000 to 91 women's organizations in 26 countries in the following areas: Women's Human Rights' Political Participation; Peace building; Health Reproductive Rights and HIV/aids; and Economic Empowerment.
- ii. Part of AWDF work is the promotion of women's Leadership. In this connection, AWDF proposed a women's Forum to be held within 2004. The proposal was endorsed in principle and it was agreed that before the end of the meeting the overall structure and process for organizing the forum should be agreed upon, with AWDF acting as the Lead agency and the UNECA, ACGD as Lead partner.

104. During the discussions, the African Union Representative suggested that the AU should also be considered a possible partner.

Item number 7: Reports of Intergovernmental Bodies
Report of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

105. Mr. Jean Francois Obembe, Chief, in ECCAS Secretary General Cabinet, presented the contribution of ECCAS the development and implementation of a gender policy in Central Africa. He noted that ECCAS, which includes 11 countries, has been inactive between 1992 to 1997. In 1998, the Summit of Head of States and Governments decided to give it a new start and demanded that the organisation develop adequate policies for the advancement of women in urban and rural areas alike.

106. So far, women-related problems have been addressed only in a social-oriented perspective. Consequently, it has become urgent to define the meaning and content of the gender concept before developing a sub-regional gender policy whose objective is a partnership between men and women in development. Mr. Obembe noted that up to now, ECCAS had not put in place special mechanisms for gender mainstreaming its activities and programmes, but is in the process of including this dimension in its statutory texts, and subsequently seek assistance from SRDC/CA in recruiting the needed staff. In the meantime, ECCAS and ECA Sub-regional Development Center in Central Africa are cooperating so as to prepare a study on national and sub-regional strategies for the promotion of gender. This two pronged approach will cover efforts undertaken at the national and sub-regional levels and will aim at:

- Assessing efforts deployed by RECs in terms of their commitments to gender development issues;
- Listing sub-regional institutions involved in gender issues, identifying ways and means of furthering dialogue and co-ordination with sub-regional institutions .

107. ECCAS representative then summarized the progress achieved with respect to gender development in the sub-region, namely;

- The gender mainstreaming mechanisms set up in most countries;
- The adoption of specific laws on women in addition to the inclusion of gender equality in all Constitutions; and general Conventions and Charters on Human Rights;
- The launching by women parliamentarians in Central Africa of the “Network of central Africa Women Parliamentarians” whose mission is to lobby for women’s integration in decision-making machineries and in conflict resolutions, build the capacity of women parliamentarian, strengthen women NGO’s, mobilize women electorate and support women candidates;
- The establishment of information and communication networks on the approach of gender mainstreaming;
- The signing in 2002 of a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN High Commission for Human Rights to undertake a series of activities for the protection of human rights including women’s rights in the sub-region.

108. During the discussion that followed, participants referred to the steps taken by their respective countries to enforce a gender-oriented policy. Other participants requested further clarification on the proposed of ECCAS study to account for national and sub-regional progress and limitations related to developing gender policies. In this context, Mali representative noted the benefit that could be drawn from 3 studies conducted recently at the national level on men’s mentality towards women and gender issues; Women, Family and Islam; and the enhancement of women’s socio-economic role for the improvement of their status.

109. A representative from Swaziland stressed the importance of gender machineries and their lobbying role, and the way ECA could help strengthen them. She informed the meeting of the imminent ratification by her country of CEDAW and the efforts made to integrate gender gaps in the Constitution. The Nigerian representative raised the issue of limited resources and underlined the efforts made to involve the private and public sectors in fund raising to help women in politics. The representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo spoke about the creation of The Women's Network for Peace and the need to foster stronger ties with ECCAS.

IAC

STATEMENT BY THE INTER-AFRICAN COMMITTEE ON TRADITIONAL PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

110. The report of IAC was presented by the President of the organization, Ms. Berhan Ras-Work. She pointed out that realistic initiatives to ensure gender justice and equity in the African social contexts have to take into consideration deep-seated value-based patriarchal power relationships, which have prevailed throughout human history (Africa being the cradle of mankind). It is the weight of tradition and values that force the majority of women to accept in silence, invisibility, marginalization and underestimation of their work and contribution to social and economic development. Maternity, domestic work, care for children the disabled and the aged though indispensable services remain not only unpaid but are yet to be remunerated. In order to change these negative attitudes, there was need to address a number of factors, including:

- i. Raising the awareness of women about the harmful nature of such practices and appeal for a change at national, regional and international levels;
- ii. Sensitizing for society as a whole and policy maker in particular to recognize the contribution of 50% of the World's population,
- iii. Carrying out studies and research; and target groups such as youth, religious leaders, women groups and policy makers through seminars, workshops, publications, the media and the Internet.

111. Ms. Berhan Ras-Work noted that her organization, the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices (IAC) set up in 1984, considers the impact of tradition affecting the health of women as a decisive impediment to the social economic and political participation of African Women.

112. Ms. Ras-Work pointed out that Africa is a Mosaic of cultures and people's but cultural practices, which cut across boundaries, happen to be those that negatively affect women. IAC has identified culturally condoned forms of discrimination prevailing from the Horn of Africa to the extreme West end of the continent as common factor affecting the lives of millions of women. Female genital mutilation, which is prevalent in at least 28 African countries, is an example, the status and lives of African women.

113. IAC deals with the issue of traditional practices affecting the health of women and children from several angles: health, human rights, education, economic and political status. The objective is eradication of all forms of harmful traditional practices, which affect women and girl children negatively. The strategies used include creation of awareness in order to effect a desired change of attitude and Lobbying and advocacy at the national, regional and international levels for impacting favourable policy change.

114. At the grass root level building the capacity of IAC affiliate in 28 countries is the foundation of IAC. Support is provided in the area of research, base line survey and training of trainers. Target groups such as religious leaders, youth groups, women leaders, the media, policy makers are

reached through seminars, symposium, workshops, cross-country visits, conferences, publications, internet etc. Alternative income generating activities for practitioners is an area in which IAC is also engaged.

115. In the area of Partnership, we enjoy excellent working relationship with ACGD receiving valuable support and encouragement from Ms. Ouedraogo and her team. The official status accorded to IAC by the OAU has enabled it to work closely with the women's division receiving valuable technical and financial support. We appreciate the valuable collaboration we have with Dr. Maboreke and Madame Teriba. IAC has contributed towards the elaboration of the draft protocol to the African Charter on Human's and People's Rights, the Rights of Women and it is our hope that this instrument will be adopted soon.

116. At the UN level we work with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human's Rights closely attending the sessions of the Commission on Human Right's and that of its subsidiary body the Sub-commission. IAC collaborates with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and at present UNDP as FGM and other traditional practices imply a host of issues. Ms. Ras-Work reiterated the fact that harmful traditional practices are clearly violation of Human Rights as stated in the relevant conventions i.e. the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the African Charter on Human's and People's Rights etc.

117. In order to assess the impact of IAC's work, indicators have been developed recently by African Scientists, researchers, sociologist and doctors: the outcome of the process will soon be published. We shall share these tools with all our partners and interested groups. Next Year, in 2002, from February 4 to 6 IAC is organizing an international conference with the aim to take stock of what has been accomplished so far, and to register constraints and challenges and to develop a common agenda for collaborative action. On this occasion February 6, will be declared as the international day of '0 Tolerance to FGM'. We call upon all of you for your collaboration to make this African Initiative a success.

118. In concluding, Ms. Ras-Work said that Africans should be empowered to lead the campaign against harmful traditional practices using culturally sensitive strategies and interventions. Such a move is bound to result in a meaningful change of social attitudes without negative reactions.

119. During the discussion, it was recommended to:

- Encourage African Government to adopt the African protocol on women's rights
- Direct education on harmful traditional practices to change attitudes at all levels in an integrated and holistic manner
- Coordinate interventions at the national level, between governments, NGO's and inter-governmental organizations
- Integrate information and education in regional, sub-regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting Human Right's

AGENDA ITEM 8: Modalities for the Renewal of CWD Membership and Bureau for 2003-2004

120. This agenda item was introduced by the Director of ACGD, Ms. Josephine Ouedraogo. She explained that the current modalities for renewal of membership of CWD and its Bureau were discussed and approved in the CWD meeting of June 1999. The three categories of membership include the member States, NGOs, resource persons, IGOs and UN agencies as observers. A total of 19 member States are selected every two-years by alphabetical order and per subregion.

Representation is by country and the language balance is an important consideration. Two-thirds of the membership is renewed while one third is retained through elections to preserve continuity.

121. The women's NGOs are selected at the national, subregional and regional levels. Eligible NGOs must be representatives of women, and must demonstrate track record of stability, good practice and sustainability, a stable financial base as portrayed by the annual reports, concrete results achieved through their direct intervention and a minimum of five years of existence. A total of five rural and urban organizations/associations are selected at the national level, five individual and/or women group organizations that draw membership from the entire subregion at the subregional level and three membership women's organizations open to individuals and/or representatives of women's groups at the regional level. Five service/specialized organizations and five resource persons with technical skills are also selected from the subregions. Linguistic and subregional balance is taken into consideration in the selection process.

122. Modalities for renewal of NGOs are similar to the renewal of the member States. Operationally, ECA is responsible for selecting NGOs and Resource Persons and submitting the list to the CWD Bureau for approval. For the renewal of the current members, the list would be submitted to the Bureau in April 2003. The Bureau is comprised of five member States out of the 19 countries selected. Each represents one of the five subregions. Its positions include: the Chairperson, the First Vice-Chairperson, the Second Vice-Chairperson, First Rapporteur and Second Rapporteur. Additional ex-officio members of the Bureau include: the Chairperson of the sixth African Regional Conference on Women and the country that is chairing the AU Summit in order to create a link between CWD and AU.

123. Concern was raised that the criterion, which asks for a minimum of 5000 members, is unrealistic given the differences in population size of countries, and specifically with regard to strategic women's NGOs as human rights and research NGOs. With regard to the change of name of the Committee from Committee on Women and Development (CWD) to Committee on Gender and Development (CGD), to reflect the change in the name from ACW to ACGD, it was proposed that the Ministers should submit such a recommendation to the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Further, participants recommended that the Ministers urge the Bureau or Chairperson of Bureau as appropriate to meet with the Chairperson of AU in order to make an appeal for the strengthening of the gender Unit in AU and the mainstreaming of gender in all its structures.

124. The elections for the renewal of CWD Members and CWD Bureau were conducted. The list of new members of CWD is attached as Annex II of this report. The new members of the Bureau are: Egypt – Chairperson, Burundi – First Vice-Chairperson, Ghana - Second Vice-Chairperson, Lesotho – First Rapporteur, Gabon -Second Rapporteur, Congo – Chair of Sixth Regional Conference on Women, and South Africa - Chair of AU Summit.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Any Other Business

125. The rapporteur read the draft letter written by CWD to the Minister of Women and Child Welfare of Cote d'Ivoire, expressing concern and hoping for peace and reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire. The Committee endorsed the letter that will subsequently be submitted to the Ministerial meeting of CWD for approval.

126. The Nigerian delegate indicated that it is pertinent to highlight the devastating consequences of the ravaging effects of the following: food security, HIV/AIDS, STDs, tuberculosis, environmental degradation, poverty and debt reduction/cancellation.

127. The Tunisian delegate emphasized the need to strengthen triangular cooperation through African financial agencies, particularly ADB, in order to enhance and exchange expertise in gender mainstreaming into development and equal opportunities.

128. The Egyptian delegate made the following recommendations based on the specific experience of Egypt with regard to the empowerment of women entrepreneurship and the mainstreaming of gender.

- To establish a special mechanism to train cadres capable of building their market capacity and dealing with challenges of globalization. It is also necessary to provide African women with a similar mechanism that may contribute to exchange of experience. Moreover, the products of African countries should be marketed among them, especially that the African continent has its own heritage and traditions that are reflected in the special character of its products.
- Egypt's Productive households Project is a pioneer experience. It turns the family into a productive unit that contributes to raising the family's economic level and solving the problem of unemployment among girls, youth, and women.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adoption of the Synthesis Report of the Meeting of Experts

129. The rapporteur read the report paragraph by paragraph and received comments from participants for inclusion in the final report. It was moved that the report be adopted with the changes.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Closing of the Meeting

130. Ms. Josephine Ouedraogo made the closing remarks on behalf of Mr. K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of ECA. In her remarks, Ms. Ouedraogo expressed deep appreciation and pride in the way the meeting had been conducted. She thanked delegates who showed interest and made very constructive suggestions for ECA and the meeting of Ministers.

131. Ms. Ouedraogo thanked all the ministers who had been able to participate in, and make contribution to the experts' technical meeting. She apologised to the delegates and ministers who may have encountered logistical difficulties as she reiterated that whatever the shortcomings experienced, the Government of South Africa had ensured that everything went smoothly.

132. Ms. Ouedraogo noted with thanks that the chair of the meeting, Ms. Rachel Simbabure, had steered the meeting skilfully and in a pleasant, constructive and fruitful manner. Ms Ouedraogo thanked Tanzania, the rapporteur for agreeing to chair some sessions in the absence of the chair. In closing, Ms. Ouedraogo assured the delegates that the list of NGO members of the CWD will be ready for approval by April 2003.

133. Ms. Rachel Simbabure, Chairperson of the CWD Technical Experts Meeting thanked participants for making the meeting lively and worthwhile, and expressed her appreciation to ACGD for a job well done. She particularly thanked the South Africa Government for hosting the meeting and the warm hospitality extended to participants. Finally, she thanked all the members of CWD for the support and cooperation extended to Zimbabwe, making it possible for her to chair CWD effectively during her tenure of office.

134. The Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

Annex I

Recommendations

1. Member States to reaffirm their commitment to advocate and promote the integration of gender perspectives in all development policies, plans and programmes.
2. All the line ministries and other government structures should be involved in the evaluation of progress made in mainstreaming gender in their policies, plans and programmes within the framework of the assessment of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms.
3. Each country should have greater use of time-use surveys to measure and integrate women's work in national accounts and national budget.
4. Allocate the necessary resources for mainstreaming gender in all sectoral ministries
5. Request the Secretariat of NEPAD to ensure the systematic participation of ECA/ACGD and the Gender Unit of AU in the decision- making process of NEPAD.
6. African Gender and Development Index should be a joint instrument of all African countries, and that it should be presented to the African Ministers Responsible for Gender during the ministerial meeting that participants had recommended AU and ECA to convene.
7. To establish a special mechanism to train cadres among women capable of marketing and dealing with challenges of globalization and, it is necessary to provide African women with a similar mechanism that may contribute to exchange of experience.
8. IAC membership should be expanded to include other countries.
9. IAC should include other practices such as forced marriages in its programme of work.
10. Collaboration between ECOWAS and IAC should be encouraged with government involvement.

Annex II

List of new countries to serve in CWD (2002 – 2004)

Southern Africa	Eastern Africa	Central Africa	West Africa	North Africa
Lesotho	Burundi	Central African Republic	Cape Verde	Algeria
Mauritius	Democratic Republic of Congo	Republic Equatorial Guinea	Gambia	Lybia
Madagascar	Republic of Congo	Congo (as Chair of 6 th Regional Conference)	Ghana	Egypt
South Africa (as chair of AU)	Eritrea	Gabon	Nigeria	
Zambia	Tanzania		Benin	

Annex III

List of CWD members

Annex 4: Renewal of CWD Members and CWD Bureau Results of the Elections

Current membership of CWD by subregion - Period: (1999-2002)

Southern Africa	Eastern Africa	Central Africa	West Africa	North Africa
Angola	Comoros	Cameroon	Benin	Egypt
Botswana	Djibouti	Chad	Burkina Faso	Morocco
Swaziland	Seychelles	Congo	Côte D'Ivoire	Sudan
Zimbabwe	Tanzania	Gabon	Nigeria	
Zambia			Togo	

List of new countries to serve in CWD - Period: (2002-2004)

Southern Africa	East Africa	Central Africa	West Africa	North Africa
Lesotho	Burundi	Central African Republic	Cape Verde	Algeria
Mauritius	Democratic Republic of Congo	Equatorial Guinea	Gambia	Libya
Madagascar	Eritrea	Congo (as Chair of 6 th Regional Conference)	Ghana	Egypt
Zambia	Tanzania	Gabon	Nigeria	
South Africa (as chair of AU)			Benin	

Current Members of the CWD Bureau - Period: 1999 – 2002

Position	Country
Chairperson	Zimbabwe
First Vice-Chairperson	Cameroon
Second Vice-Chairperson	Nigeria
First Rapporteur	Morocco
Second Rapporteur	Tanzania
Chair of Sixth Regional Conference on Women	Congo (Ex-Officio)
Current Chair of AU	Zambia (Ex-Officio)

Countries Elected to the CWD Bureau - Period: October 2002 - 2004

Position	Country
Chairperson	Egypt
First Vice-Chairperson	Burundi
Second Vice-Chairperson	Ghana
First Rapporteur	Lesotho
Second Rapporteur	Gabon
Chair of Sixth Regional Conference on Women	Congo (Ex-Officio)
Current Chair of AU	South Africa (Ex-Officio)

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Annex V

Letter from the Ministry of Cote D'Ivoire