

The Scope of the Review

The Seventh African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing+10) will be held in parallel with the Fourth African Development Forum (ADF IV) on Governance, 6-15 October 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Both meetings will be able to take full advantage of the presence of a wide variety of delegates and guests in Addis Ababa.

Beijing+10 fits within the global evaluation framework for assessing progress achieved after 10 years of implementing the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action on Women (BPFA). The review will also detail progress in addressing the 12 priority areas of concern and the emerging issues taken into account in the recommendations of the Outcome Document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Beijing + 5, June 2000.

The meeting will also holistically assess implementation of the regional 1994 Dakar Platform for Action (DPFA), the Africa-specific content of which raises issues that are widely reflected in the global BPFA and other relevant global and regional frameworks. Moreover, participants will review achievements of the goals of the Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

Participants

In addition to Ministers in charge of women and gender issues, other participants from key sectors will also attend the conference including African women parliamentarians and representatives of various constituencies, women entrepreneurs, African institutions, inter-governmental organizations, international organizations, United Nations Specialized Agencies, and representatives of international donor and funding agencies.



The Evaluation Process in Africa

1. National level

African governments prepared their national evaluation reports based on a questionnaire formulated by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW). NGOs will also prepare their contribution either by producing separate evaluation reports or by integrating their inputs into the government reports.

2. Subregional level

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organized five subregional BPFA Decade Review Meetings in 2004:

- West Africa: 13-15 April, Abuja, Nigeria
- North Africa: 14-16 April, Tangiers, Morocco
- Central Africa: 19-21 April, Brazzaville, Congo
- Southern Africa: 26-29 April, Lusaka, Zambia
- East Africa: 2- 4 June, Kigali, Rwanda

The purpose of these meetings was to enrich national evaluation with a subregional perspective, build consensus around priority areas and identify the way forward. Final reports outlining the outcome recommendations of these meetings are available at: www.uneca.org/beijing-plus10

In the Eastern and Southern Africa Subregions, NGOs also met to review progress made in the implementation of the BPFA just before the intergovernmental review meetings. Their outputs were presented in the intergovernmental review meetings.

3. Regional level

Beijing + 10 meetings will focus on regional, ministerial-level evaluation of BPFA and other initiatives. Prior to the Ministerial session, a Pre-Ministerial Conference Meeting will be organized in thematic group discussions that will focus on the following issues:

- Gender and HIV/AIDS
- Production and use of gender disaggregated data in policy making towards poverty reduction
- Partnership with men and boys for gender equality
- Women and Governance
- Institutional mechanisms for effective gender mainstreaming in national policies and programmes
- Women's voices in conflict prevention and peace building (negotiation, reconstruction, displacements)
- Gender responsiveness of NEPAD
- The role of the Judiciary in promoting and implementing women's rights
- Partnership for gender equality: the role of multilateral and bilateral agencies
- Economic Empowerment of Women (including links with migration and displacement)
- Women's human rights and right to development (including links with ICPD at Ten)
- Issues facing the girl child today

African Gender and Development Index

In a joint ADF IV/Beijing + 10 Session, ECA will launch the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI). The AGDI is a tool that the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) has developed to help policy makers, planners and civil society measure gender equality and equity on the continent, and track and monitor priority actions agreed upon in the Dakar and Beijing Platforms, the MDGs and other conventions. AGDI has been piloted in 12 countries and the results will be presented in the ECA biennial African Women's Report (AWR) to be published in mid-2005.

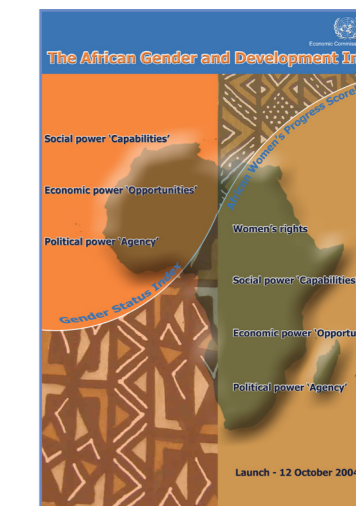
Involving African NGOs in the Beijing +10 Evaluation Process

ECA is facilitating and supporting the participation of women NGOs in the decade review process at the regional level, as requested by the ECA Committee on Women and Development (CWD). To this effect, ECA convened a Regional Consultative Meeting of African women NGOs (22-23 July 2004, Addis Ababa) that gathered about 50 NGO organizations and regional women's networks, as well as CWD members. The main objective of this meeting was to offer participants the opportunity to exchange views on preparations for the African Women NGO Forum, due to be held 6-7 October 2004 in Addis Ababa just before the Prep-Ministerial and Ministerial Sessions of the Seventh African Regional Conference on Women (8-14 October).



Parallel Exhibition

A joint ADF IV and Beijing+10 parallel exhibition is planned to give visibility and exposure to various civil society organizations and stakeholders, and to provide the public with more information on their products, services and activities.



Major Outcome Expected

The Beijing +10 review process encourages African governments to make all gender-related critical areas the focus of national and regional action. The major outcome of the conference will be a Declaration that reflects convergence and articulates a series of actions and measures over a five-year period, designed to help overcome major obstacles in achieving gender equality and equity in Africa. CWD will convene every two years to follow up and evaluate the implementation of commitments undertaken. The collaboration of all key players is vital, including African intergovernmental organizations, national governments, the private sector, trade unions, and sectoral stakeholders, including NGOs and other civil society organizations (CSOs). A specific monitoring and reporting mechanism needs to be created as part of the implementation process.

Programme of Work of the Seventh African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing + 10)

The Seventh African Regional Conference (Beijing + 10) Programme of Work comprises three meetings:

- An African Women NGOs Forum on Beijing+10 will convene 6-7 October to review the role and achievements of civil society and other actors in implementing BPFA. The Forum will achieve this through thematic group sessions that will be conducted on all the 12 critical areas of concern.
- The Pre-Ministerial Conference Meeting on the Decade Review of the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, (8-10 October). This will also be organized in the form of 12 Thematic Group Discussions from 8-10 October 2004
- The Ministerial Meeting of the Seventh African Regional Conference on Women on the Decade Review of the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action will convene 12-14 October.

Ministerial Meeting on the Decade Review of the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action

Day One, Tuesday, 12 October 2004

- An inaugural session to launch the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI). The Index will be presented by ACGD as a tool for measuring Government Performance in promoting gender equality.
- Opening of the 7th African Regional Conference on Women – Ministerial Conference on the Decade Review of the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action.

Opening statements will be made by:

1. Mr. K.Y. Amoako, The Executive Secretary of ECA
2. Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, Secretary General of the Fourth World Conference on Women
3. H.E. Mme Chantal Compaoré, First Lady of Burkina Faso
4. Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union
5. H.E. Mme Jeanne Dambendzet, Minister in charge of the Advancement of Women, Republic of Congo

- General debate on the outcome of the overview of achievements and challenges in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa since Beijing Conference in 1995. The overview aims to position Africa's performance in the global context with regard to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals, ICPD, NEPAD and other initiatives.

- Presentation by the Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Development of the Synthesis of National Progress Reports.

Day Two, Wednesday, 13 October 2004

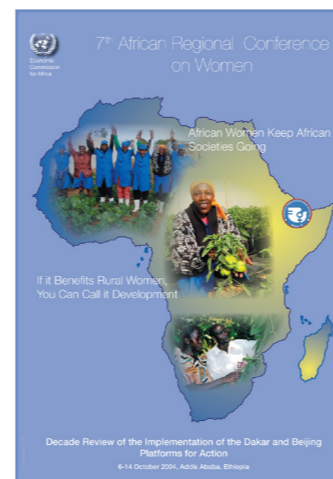
- Presentation by the African Union and the African Development Bank of their contribution towards the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action and other Initiatives.
- Presentation by UN Agencies of a synthesis of their contributions in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and other initiatives.
- Presentation of the Outcome of the Women NGOs Forum
- Presentation of the outcome and recommendations of the 12 Thematic Group Sessions

Day Three, Thursday, 14 October 2004

- Joint session with ADF-IV on the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Human Capacity. This theme will be introduced by the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance.
- Adoption of the Ministerial Statement of Renewed Commitment to Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the Development Agenda.
- Closing of the Seventh African Regional Conference on Women.

Closing statements will be made by:

1. Mrs. Marie Angélique Savane, Chairperson of the NEPAD Peer Review Mechanism
2. Representative of the UN Secretary General
3. The Chairperson of the Seventh African Regional Conference on Women



Seventh African Regional Conference on Women

Decade Review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action (Beijing+10)

6-14 October 2004
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



For further information, you can visit the following websites:
Beijing +10 website: www.uneca.org/beijingplus10
ECA website at: www.uneca.org
ACGD website at: www.uneca.org/acgd

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