



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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

Official statistics available from the United Nations Statistics Division, the Population Division, the regional commissions and other entities in the United Nations system (ILO, UNESCO, WHO, etc.) will also be used. Coordination will be established with

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

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

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

III. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

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

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QUESTI

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

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

Guiding questions

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

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

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

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

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

B. Examples of obstacles encountered and remaining gaps and challenges

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

C. Lessons learned

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

Part Three: Institutional Development

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

Guiding questions

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

a) What **national mechanisms** exist for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women – for example, ministry, national commission, parliamentary committee or commission? What mandates and resources does each body have and how do they work together? Describe the location of the national mechanisms and the access to decision-making processes. What are the main partners of the national mechanisms? What networks have been established and how effective are these networks? What resources do the national mechanisms have in terms of staff and financial support? What percentage of financial resources comes from international or bilateral donors?

b) Have **focal points** for gender equality and empowerment of women been established within line ministries, and in which ministries? What support is provided from within the ministries? What support (training, advice etc.) is provided by the national machinery? How effective are these focal points?

c) What **monitoring** mechanisms have been established to measure progress in implementation? How is accountability for promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women established across all ministries? How is coordination achieved? What role does the highest level of Government play?

d) What levels of **capacity** for promoting gender mainstreaming have been achieved? Through which mechanisms? What are the remaining challenges in the area of capacity building?

*e) Has a core set of **indicators** been established and where is responsibility for monitoring located? What gaps and challenges remain in relation to data and statistics? In which areas is lack of sex-disaggregation still a problem? In which areas do new types of data need to be collected? To what extent are the national statistical office and the statistical units in line ministries aware, committed and capable of providing the required data? In which sectors, and to what extent, is sex-disaggregated data being used effectively to inform policy-making and planning?*

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

Part Four: Main challenges and actions to address them

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

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

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

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

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

Indicator 6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education

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

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

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

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

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

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

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

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

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Target 6. Reduce by three quarters, between 199

ANNEX III

BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

A. Women and poverty

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

B. Education and training of women

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

C. Women and health

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

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

D. Violence against women

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

E. Women and armed conflict

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

F. Women and the economy

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

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

G. Women in power and decision-making

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

H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

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

I. Human rights of women

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

J. Women and the media

- J.1. Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication
- J.2. Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped porj 21 6 TD(0)j 160 TD(0)j 242j 025 D(K)j)B 0 3 D(6D)2

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

L. The girl child

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