

**Division for the Advancement of Women  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

**AIDE-MEMOIRE**

**Regional consultation on Reducing the Gender Dimensions of Poverty:  
Microfinance Policies, Processes and Practices**

*Accra, Ghana  
24-26 April, 2002*

**A. Introduction**

The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) will organise a regional consultation from 24-26 April 2002 in Accra, Ghana, to (a) analyse the key issues that have emerged from the on-line discussions on micro-finance that were conducted in June and July 2001; (b) facilitate a dialogue among key stakeholders with regard to sustainable and effective microfinance; and (c) develop a consensus on a “minimum package” for technical support and capacity building for microenterprise development. The meeting will be hosted by the Government of Ghana.

The consultation is an essential step of the project funded under the development  
initially to assess and improve the viability of microfinance as a poverty reduction

The long-term poverty reduction potential of such micro-level initiatives needs to

be evaluated. In particular, micro-enterprise experiences need to be

(b) indirect outputs:

- Increased awareness about the role of microfinance in the empowerment of women.
- Ways to improve collaboration and coordination on this issue will be identified.

The consultation will be organised by the Division for the Advancement of Women. It will be responsible for:

- programme preparation;
- identification and selection of participants;
- preparation of background document(s);
- preparation of guidelines for presentations for selected speakers;
- drafting and sending of invitation letters; and

3. Representatives from selected NGOs (international and regional);
4. Representatives from other regions;
5. Donor countries/agencies;
6. Representatives from other UN agencies;
7. Facilitator/consultant; and
8. UNDESA/DAW.

DAW/DESA will arrange travel and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) for participants from other countries.

#### Language of the consultation

The working language of the consultation will be English. Documentation for the consultation will be provided in English.

#### Passports and Visas

Participants will be expected to make necessary arrangements with regard to passports, visa and health certificates for travel and consultation attendance.

### **F. Report and Publications**

Background document(s) for the consultation will be prepared by DAW/DESA. A consultation report will be prepared by a consultant/facilitator and will be published by DAW/DESA following the conclusion of the workshop.

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