

Although poverty was not identified as a key issue, it is acknowledged that, the country witnesses it becoming a critical issue should the issues concerning women not be addressed.

The Platform has been developed with active input from Non Government Organisations (NGO's). It marks the spirit of partnership between Government and NGO's in the desire to coordinate a nationally recognised framework of action for the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, China on 4-September, 1995 and for the next decade.

It also calls for strengthening of partnership between the National Government machinery and Non Government Organisations, with strong emphasis on financial and technical support. These critical issues are not exclusive to women but are

National Platform for Sustainable Development and Advanced Platform requires structural and adaptational changes.



PREFACE

1.0 CURRENT TRENDS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Current indicators reveal that the literacy status of women remains at 34% for women and 46% for men which is comparatively lower than women in other Melanesian countries of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

in the public and private sectors.

men occupy managerial positions.

are training either to participate

in the public and private sectors.

New has one of the highest infant  
expectancy of women is 47 years

g in public life is far from reality.

ble to enter into the national and

eighties and the nineties have seen

participating in the decision making

ate the online women's movement

to nominate and appoint a women's representative to the

provides for the equal rights of all citizens,

understand and exercise their rights. This has

effective government mechanisms advocating and promoting

lack of NGO capacity has made it difficult to

ancement of women. The endorsement by the

and the subsequent launching of the National Women's Policy marked

Similarly, employment ratios of both men

remains very much in favour of men. On

The majority of young women do not re

in the formal sector or in a formal sector

The health status of women is also low

and maternal mortality rates in the wo

and most women die of preventable di

Equal participation of women in dec

Over the years only a handful of wom

provincial political arena. The period o

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the National Council

National Parliament

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women have not been ab

in the interests of women.

Stringent donor cond

Mobilise and promote

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## PREFACE

This report has been prepared by the Government of Papua New Guinea at the request of the United Nations. It presents an assessment of the progress and shortfalls experienced during the first five years of the Post Beijing era. The Papua New Guinea Government reflected its commitment for Gender Equality and Women Advancement by sending a strong Government delegation of thirty-one women to Beijing. Prior to the Conference, Papua New Guinea women identified ten critical issues to be addressed during the decade (1995-2005). These were officially endorsed by the Government at a special session titled "Women's Role in Development and the Future of Papua New Guinea," and the adoption of the National Platform for Action. Since 1995, the Government has undergone tough economic pressures and permanent solution to its current problems is far from sight. Whichever path the Government chooses to improve the plight of women and girls will be pursued under strenuous conditions. The National Platform provides the directions by which PNG women seek gender equality and advancement. The experience of PNG clearly confirms that women's movement and formal women's organisations who can articulate

Following Beijing, the National Platform for Action was developed. Since 1995, the Government has undergone tough economic pressures and permanent solution to its current problems is far from sight. Whichever path the Government chooses to improve the plight of women and girls will be pursued under strenuous conditions. The National Platform provides the directions by which PNG women seek gender equality and advancement. The experience of PNG clearly confirms that women's movement and formal women's organisations who can articulate

issues were:

- Strengthening of the National Women's Machinery
- Empowerment of Women
- Accountability and Good Governance
- Integration of Gender issues in Government Planning and Administration

Since 1995, the PNG Government has undergone tough economic pressures and permanent solution to its current problems is far from sight. Whichever path the Government chooses to improve the plight of women and girls will be pursued under strenuous conditions. The National Platform provides the directions by which PNG women seek gender equality and advancement. The experience of PNG clearly confirms that women's movement and formal women's organisations who can articulate

assessment has shown that in the absence of the necessary institutions, women's movement and formal women's organisations who can articulate

Further  
an effect

producing goods for family use, sale and for cultural exchanges and ceremonial purposes.

The introduction of a cash economy, legal systems of justice and democratic forms of government are placing serious strains on the traditional ways. Pacific nations

are facing the risk of losing social responsibilities and values in their quest for development. Pacific nations presently in political relationships with major powers are seeking self-determination and self government. The attaining of this goal is heavily dependent on the decisions we make now with regard to the management of our human, physical and cultural resources.

With these decisions come inevitable changes in the relationship between women and men and especially changes in gender roles. There lies an importance of reaffirming women's and men's customary status but at the same time there is a need to concentrate on the changing roles, especially towards the participation of women between female and male. There is a need for gender equality and power sharing.

In the Pacific region there are unique differences between the sub-regions of Melanesia and differences still within the sub-regions. There exists a unique bond that defines the Pacific personalities that lies the strength to make this

It is recognised that within Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. But despite these differences, it is within this experience that the Platform of Action is relevant.

At the same time Pacific countries cannot exist in isolation. Pacific peoples cannot exist in isolation. Pacific countries cannot exist in isolation. Pacific countries cannot exist in isolation.

Action. The plans however must be reviewed to be practical in the light of the economic constraints facing PNG.

Clear targets that the country will be able to achieve during the next five years of the decade should be developed with renewed vigour and commitment from Government to all other stakeholders in PNG. As re-iterated by the PNG Delegation upon their return from Beijing, Government must adopt the platform and put in an efficient women's machinery to implement the platform.



## 1.0 Current Trends in the Achievement of Gender Equality in Papua New Guinea:

On the eve of the new millennium and in this age of globalisation, women in Papua New Guinea face serious challenges more so than the era of the nineteen eighties. Captured by the financial volatility and economic insecurity prevailing in the Asian region, Papua New Guinea has been subjected to the growing trends of global market competition. Its alliance with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank have seen the government push for free market economic policies and privatisation. Although market competition is viewed to provide greater efficiency in the production of goods and services there is a concern for equity and empowerment by the people of Papua New Guinea. (World of 5)



an integral human development focus in recognition of women's role in economic productivity and sustainable development and the implementation of the Law Reform Commission Report Number No. 14 on Domestic

Violence.

Appeal for significantly improved measures to ensure the protection of the girl child's basic human rights to education, literacy, vocational training and participation in further employment and significantly to rapidly

accelerate measures to improve the enrolment of girls in the education system.

Request that Government ensure that all girls and girls receive proper social services, and that existing Non Government Organisations be fully and consistently supported and that they participate in planning and implementing of any policies and projects.

**Further Request** that consistent and adequate financial support be made available to the National Council of Women and other key Non Government Organisations charged with facilitating the development of women.

Confirm our willingness to support the Department of Health and UNICEF in the training of midwives of every village in order to reduce maternal mortality and improve basic primary health care utilising the nationwide Child Survival Programme service delivery model.

*We, the women leaders of Papua New Guinea, firmly believe that without dramatic improvement in the situation of women, the cherished hallmark of true representational democracy, integral human development and equal opportunity cannot be realised. We firmly believe that without dramatic improvement in the situation of women, the foundation of our society - the family - is in serious jeopardy, and therefore our society at large is at peril. We assert our rights as citizens to declare these truths, not out of lust for power but out of love for our country. Papua New Guinea must realise the losses incurred through the decades of neglect of half of its population's special needs. The time to redress these longstanding inequities in a fair manner, to bolster the existence of most rural women in Papua New Guinea, so that all women will contribute their share to nation building in peace, dignity, health and*

selves as equal partners in Papua New Guinea's

As the case is in most developing countries Papua New Guinea women predominate in social service professions and domestic services. The total adult literacy rate stands at 28.3% of the total population, however, of the total population, 82% of the total population are already literate at a basic level.

In general the quality of life for most Papua New Guineans have deteriorated further over the past five years. This is highly evident in the urban areas. Although the country does not have a national poverty line, it is not living in extreme conditions of poverty. The dependency ratio, derived from the United Nations Human Development Report of 1990 stands at 73% for PNG. Today free markets have power in the hands of the few elites, a group of people and corporations who dominate the economy. Furthermore, current cutbacks in jobs will lead to increasing social stress, fragmented families, increasing poverty levels, and domestic violence. Prostitution problems have surfaced in the urban centres of the country leading to increase incidence of STD and AIDS in the country. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in PNG is reported to disproportionately affect young people between the age of 19 and 35. According to 1995, approximately 50% of HIV cases are women and the majority fall between the ages of 20 and 24. The risk of acquiring HIV by women is increasingly high due to the social conditions and their access to and control of resources.

Papua New Guinea's maternal mortality rate is listed among the highest in the world at 930/100,000 births (GoPNG and UNICEF, 1996). This high rate of mothers is related to pregnancy and child birth complications. The situation of women and children have not improved dramatically. With declining health resources the health status of woman and children is deteriorating. The public usage of health services with the number of outpatients declining from 8.7% in 1995. The 1999 Human Development Report reported a decline in PNG's infant mortality rate at 79/100,000.

Action is lacking in the following areas: education, economic activities and employment. Due to the absence of available gender segregated data, it is difficult to ascertain the status of women in the areas concerned.

Despite the gloomy scenario presented above progress has occurred in certain areas particularly in the Platform. PNG's response to the Global and National Platform for Women is quite encouraging. This is evident in a number of important policies endorsed in recent years. Examples include the Population Plan, National Education Plan, Small and Medium Term Enterprise Development Reference Paper, A specific programme of action for women. PNG has been introduced and funded by the international community through existing projects by sectors of government. This is largely due to the fact that the global movement for women's rights has made positive impact on the international community which also influenced country projects of government.



## 2.0 Legislative, Political Policy Framework for Achieving Gender Equality and Women's Advancement In PNG.

The Government of Papua New Guinea officially recognised the disadvantaged position of women in the country. This recognition was manifested in the call for a "rapid increase in the equal and active participation of women in all forms of economic and social activity," specified in the Seventh Aim of the Government's Eight Point Development Plan. By 1982, the government reviewed the progress of women's development in PNG and called for the establishment of a plan policy for government to resource in fulfilment of its commitment. As a result, the National Women's Policy was introduced and endorsed by government in 1991. This policy reaffirms the goal for Equality and Participation and Integral Human Development reflected in the country's National Constitution.

all endeavours to achieve integral human development of  
a fulfilment through his or her contribution to the common

opportunity to participate in and benefit from, development  
ve within this goal calls for equal participation by women in  
gious and cultural activities.

ional Women's Policy" created for the implementation of

"For everyone to be  
-the whole person, a  
-goal".

ii) :: Equality and

"For all citizen to hav  
of our country". A sp  
-all political, economic

Despite the existin



Guinea. The government has yet to appoint a task force committee to oversee the Implementation of CEDAW. Currently, interim arrangements are in place in the form of an inter-ministerial adhoc committee.

It is expected that this committee will comprise of the following agencies, Attorney General and Justice, Labour and Employment, Government Women's focal point, the National Council of Women, PNG Council of Churches, Individual and Community Rights Advocacy Forum (ICRAF), the PNG Trade Union Congress, PNG Law Reform Commission, Health and Education Departments. There are a number of outstanding tasks that the government has to undertake relating to CEDAW.

This includes a full and comprehensive study on Papua New Guinea's Legal Framework and its implications for CEDAW. A National Implementation Plan is also required. Before a national plan or program of action is developed, a legislative review and study needs to be conducted urgently. Overall, support and training have been solicited and organised at regional levels by UNIFEM for the Pacific Region. However effective follow up action is required at country level of certain countries.

The Papua New Guinea Government had been seriously considering the need for establishing rights protection mechanism. A considerable amount of research was undertaken in form of a study on the need for establishing a national human rights commission. Technical assistance from the International Human Rights Commission. A Bill to establish a Human Rights Commission enacted through an Act of Parliament is still pending parliamentary approval. This Commission will oversee the implementation of all Human Rights Conventions.

Political participation of women has improved tremendously. The recent Provincial and Local Level Governments (1995) has seen a marked increase in the participation of women at Provincial and Local Government level. Equal representation has been secured through legislation. This development is a direct follow-up of the commitment of the Papua New Guinea Government to ensure equal representation of women in decision making processes. The Government has been successful in achieving an equal footing with males since independence. At national level, the participation of women has been a remarkable achievement. The process of empowering women has become even more conscious and deliberate. Women participate equitably in the political and decision making processes of the nation. This is clearly evident when women contested the 1997 national general election and won more seats than ever witnessed before. Two women came out victorious and one woman was appointed as the first woman Governor of a province. A growing national sea of support for women given the volatile nature of Papua New Guinea is supported by current political parties and sponsorship for training and capacity building to attain in Papua New Guinea society.

v. Encourage women in urban and rural areas to undertake distance education courses.

vi. Encourage women to undertake post graduate and higher degree programs at national universities.

vii. Increase access to non-formal education and training opportunities including vocational training for those entering the workforce.

viii. Promote policies which ensure that there are at least 50% females in all educational institutions.

ix. Develop a wholistic perspective on education placing in on education starting from the home.

x. Encourage women to pursue training in non-traditional including management.

xi. Increase government responsibility for early childhood development by resourcing and giving greater recognition to Pre-school education and Tok Ples School initiatives.

xii. Increase fellowships for short-term courses in the areas of management and other technical skills.

Ensure equity of access by women to training opportunities in the public service.

Ensure that in future development of curriculum that gender

## 2.2 LITERACY.

### Strategic Objective

To give priority to the issue of literacy of women and to strengthen and expand current efforts to reduce illiteracy among women.

### Actions:

Provide materials and increase financial support to Non

## 3.0 Overview of the Global and PNG National Platform for Action

### 3.1 Global Platform for Action

Women's World Conference was to review and  
World - Looking Strategies (1985 - 1995) and  
Platform for Action. In developing the  
Platform, it was acknowledged that progressive changes have  
been made. A Nairobi assessment further showed that  
the situation of women is intricately linked to  
national economic, social and  
networks. At Beijing, women  
emphasized sound economic policies and  
women's empowerment. Women's  
empowerment is a key issue for all governments to

issues that are also relevant to

The purpose of the Fourth United Nations  
World Conference on Women was to  
appraise the implementation of the Nairobi  
Platform for Action and to adopt the Beijing Declaration and  
Beijing Global Platform for Action, which  
have been accomplished in all regions of the world.  
The situation of women is intricately linked to  
national economic, social and  
political environment and to policy responses which  
have generated the need for more emphasis on economic  
productive employment as a practical measure  
of economic advancement surfaced prominently as  
a key issue for all governments to address in the coming decade (1995-2005).

The Global Platform for Action identified twelve



- vi. Assist NCW and other NGO's in institutional strengthening and capacity building.
- vii. Strengthen the Gender and Development Unit within the Department of Finance and Planning.
- viii. Review and update the National Women's Policy.
- ix. Apply gender analysis in developing policy and planning activities.
- x. Provide assistance to Non Government agencies and institutions conducting research and programs on women.

Women's focal point to provide information for...		xii	Streng...
to resource existing programs rather than set...		xiii	Encour...
ent financial support to NGO's.		xiii	Increas...

Another significant document that was considered was the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development that was endorsed by Commonwealth Ministers on the eve of the Beijing Conference.

This document emphasised the need for equal and equitable outcomes from the Global Plan of Action. Commonwealth ministers also committed their governments to intensify efforts to ensure gender concerns become an integral part of the national processes of all Commonwealth countries.

### 3.2 ENG Platform for Action

provided the opportunity for women from all Papua New Guinea's pre-Beijing provinces and provinces of Papua New Guinea to take stock of their own situations and to express their views on the critical areas of concern that governments should address in the decade. Most notable of the various declarations and action plans emanating from this global event is Papua New Guinea's National Platform for Action. This platform presents the basis upon which the Papua New Guinea Government and society at large must articulate and advance women's progress in Papua New Guinea. The document is titled Papua New Guinea Platform for Action: A Decade of Action for Women Towards National Development and Sustainability, 1995-2005. Basically the Papua New Guinea Platform for Action identifies ten critical issues of great concern to PNG women. The issues are presented as follows:

Health

Education, training and literacy

Employment and income generation

Municipalities

Gender Development and equity

(Detail information on the Platform is attached as Appendix)

Poverty did not surface as a critical issue for women in 1995, however it was acknowledged that failure to address the above issues would instigate a rise in poverty levels within

Papua New Guinea's pre-Beijing provinces

Environment and natural resources

Legal and human rights

Culture and family

• Transport, shelter, water

• Agriculture and fisheries

• Environment and natural resources



This committee was introduced earlier under the auspices of Papua New Guinea's National Women's Policy. However given Papua New Guinea's shift from (Women in Development (WID) to Gender and Development (GAD) the committee would reorganise its focus, strengthening mainstreaming efforts across all sectors of government and the community.

It would be to strengthen integration, coordination and encourage communication between all sectors on the implementation of this plan.

The committee comprises of agencies within government and key NGO.

It is concerned with women's Human Rights issues. This committee did not meet

at Beijing but was holding meetings since 1997.

The Gender and Development unit established in the National Planning Office plays

a supportive role in monitoring and advising agencies to minimise duplication of activities and

improve coordination between all sectors on various program responses developed by different

agencies. This unit was established in 1993 as a policy response to the National

#### *Establishment of the Office of the Status of Women*

Calls for the establishment of the Office of the Status of Women were contrary to existing policies of government. Having engaged the IMF/World Bank in its economic restoration program, the government placed priority on reducing fiscal expenditures. A specific directive was to reduce the size of the public service. This had a direct effect on the establishment of the proposed Office.

In delivering the Government Budget Directions of 1999, the Government introduced a major retrenchment exercise. As a result of this directive the government women's focal point lost 70% of its staff. It had a staff ceiling of 13 and to date is reduced to just two officers. A submission for the establishment of the Office of the Status of Women was presented to the National Executive Council in 1998, however no positive response has been received on this matter.

Financial arrangements on the implementation of the plan were to be sought from the Government. However it was disclosed that the PNG Government did not officially endorse the National Platform to Action and made no firm commitments on the four critical issues

for women. Since Beijing 70% of project funding for women has been derived

from aid agencies and foreign governments.

#### *Non Government Organisations*

Organisations have emerged as important partners in the development of women's projects in Papua New Guinea. In view of the changing role and environment, the Women's focal point in Government is expected to continue to facilitate the development of policy, program responses, advice to agencies and provinces of Papua New Guinea. The changing role of the focal point places greater responsibility on NGOs in the implementation of the plan on issues affecting women.

At the New Guinean Women's Organisations at the NGO forum in Beijing has

strengthened their network, relationships and to build alliances on common issues of

the community. The women's movement has grown stronger with new groups

emerging. Although there was no specific reference on the role of NGOs in the

5. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS, VIOLENCE, PEACE AND NATIONAL UNITY.

5.1 LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

Strategic Objective:

To increase community awareness on the importance of women's human rights and legal rights as provided for in the Constitution and in the enforcement and implementation of the Convention on the

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Actions:

Plan of action on CEDAW.

i. Prioritise issues and

Human rights in

Joint Gender Mainstreaming

Report. Observations on

Human rights, effects of

human rights issues.

the community.

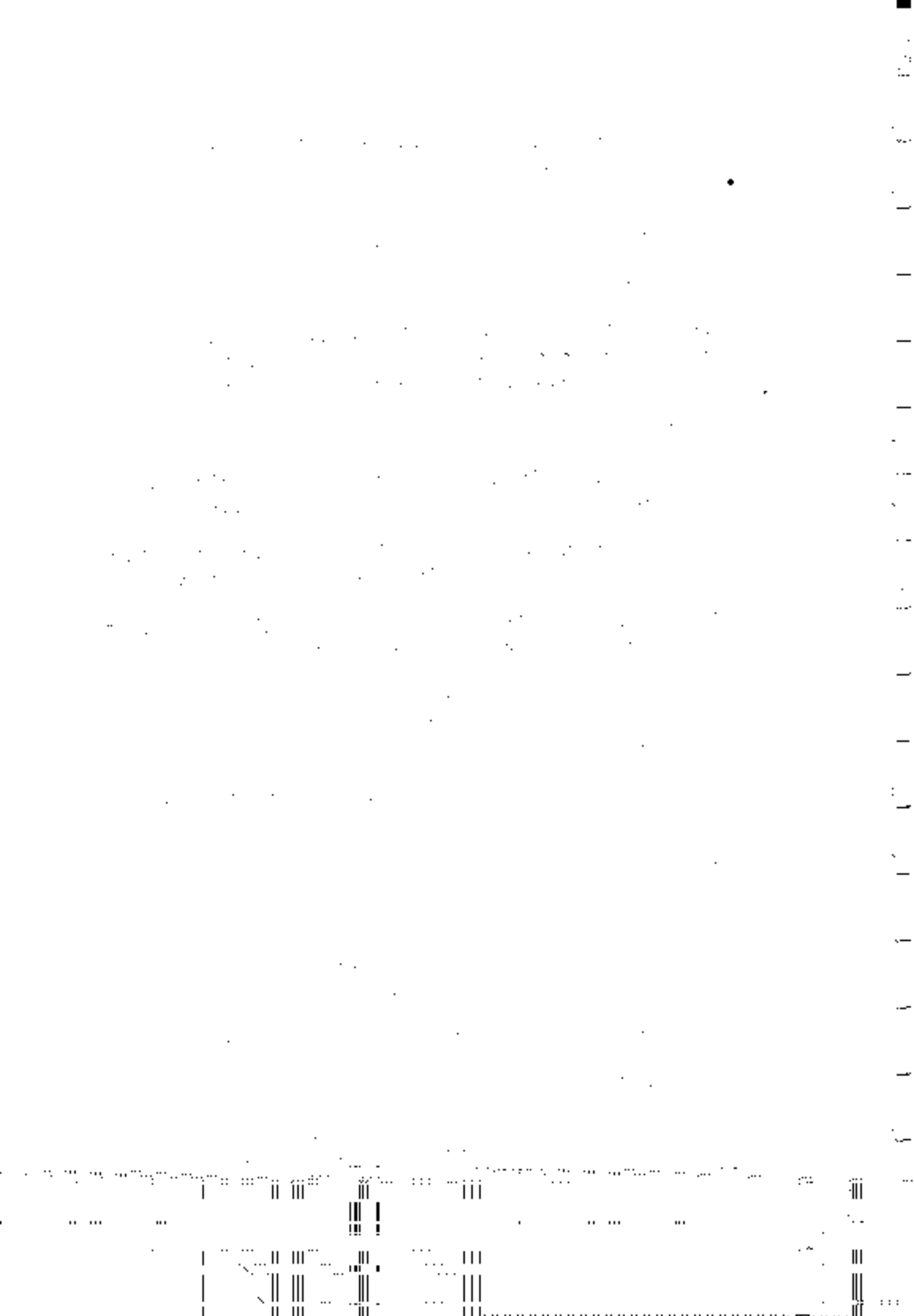
introduced the poverty alleviation program  
agents for the project. This project also  
is being supported by the World Bank. A  
Australian Government. Its emphasis is on  
NGOs at grassroots level. Women's

In 1996 the Papua New Guinea G  
with NGO's targeted as the imple  
addresses institutional concerns of  
similar scheme is also being support  
strengthening the efforts and ca  
organizational needs are also address

New Guinea's largest NGO and umbrella Organisation for Women, the National  
Council of Women depends heavily on government support for its existence. In recent  
years the National Council of Women has acquired WID projects that w  
administered by the Government Women's Social Fund. This move is  
existing national reform initiatives to decentralise project and service delivery  
Government and to NGOs working in close partnership with government. A  
change necessitates an urgent review of National Council of  
future status. It is viewed as an NGO although it was  
Parliament. Therefore the Government is obliged to fund the  
annually.

vision and the  
are because of  
orient funding  
will improve and strengthen the  
headline communication, dialogue  
levels.

The current proposals for an amalgamation of the current v  
National Council of Women may be the best option to take a  
diminishing resources available to women. In recent years, b  
left for project costs. It is hoped that the an  
existing service delivery network for WID pro  
and policy coordination from national right dow



## 4.0 Update on the Status of Implementation on the Global Platform and the PNG, National Platform for Action 1995-20005.

Most Issues In the Global Platform for Action are identical to those in Papua New Guinea's National Platform for Action. However, the major difference is that the issues are ranked differently in priority. Upon return from Beijing, a post Beijing conference was held. The four priority issues agreed to during this Conference which have surfaced in existing reports available are:

- a) Institutional Strengthening and Upgrade of the National Women's Machinery
- b) Economic Empowerment of Women
- c) Shared Decision Making and Good Governance
- d) Integration of Gender issues in Policies, Plans and Programs

The following discussion presents the status of implementation of the four critical issues highlighted. The implementation plan needs to be finalised and formally adopted for implementation by Government. Although the PNG Platform has not been presented to the National Executive Council (NEC) for recognition, commitment and further directions, the issues raised have been widely circulated. The working document and the recommendations made during the Post-Beijing Conference have been widely circulated with all sectors.

### Strengthening of the National Women's Machinery

The women's advancement in Papua New Guinea. The institutions, focal point in government and the National Council of Women, recommended have been summarised for the purposes of this

4.1  
The  
and agencies  
identified are  
Specific action  
report and pre



**Actions:**

- i. Integrate the needs of young women in plans and programmes and encourage their active participation in youth activities.

grade six level.

- iii. Provide career guidance to grade six students.

- iv. Increase the legal marriage age to eighteen.

- v. Discourage the negative portrayal and abuse of female images in commercial advertisements.

Provide employment and training opportunities for young girls.

- i. Investigate child labour abuse practices by private firms and ensure fair remuneration for workers consistent with labour laws.

Ensure that current youth labour legislation is consistent with International Labour Organisation's standards, and addresses

- ix. Legislate to protect the rights and interests of children.
- x. Recognise the particular support needs of single parents.
- xi. Support efforts of NGO's providing education for life to young girls and women.

**6.3 SPECIAL GROUPS OF WOMEN.**

**Strategic Objective:**

To recognise and support the particular needs of special groups of women.

- c) *To reorganise and strengthen the National Council of Women's Network at all levels.*

The Beijing Conference had consolidated and strengthened the National Council of Women Network. Women who have been involved in the conference processes both at the national and international levels are performing leadership roles with greater confidence and renewed energy. Current efforts are under way for the revision of Women Act. This task will be completed by Year 2000.

- d) *To establish gender desks in key departments namely, Health, Education, Trade & Industry, Agriculture, and Employment, Police Force.*

Committee on Gender and Development. It is hoped that this Committee will facilitate a supportive environment, Police and Defence Force at all point must continue to support and

Through the revitalisation of the Inter-Agency Gender Committee, it is hoped that this Committee will facilitate a supportive environment, Police and Defence Force at all point must continue to support and

- e) *To strengthen partnership relations between government and Government Organisations (NGO's) concerned with gender is*

Recognition. In 1992, the Papua New Guinea government introduced a policy titled "Non-Government Relations in Papua New Guinea". Government agencies have involved NGOs in the planning and implementation process of policy and

- iv. Use UNHCR Guideline on the Protection of Refugee Women in conjunction with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugee in considering refugee status for women.

TRANSPORT, SHELTER AND WATER, AND COMMUNICATION

TRANSPORT

Strategic Objective:

To provide safe and affordable transportation systems in rural and urban areas.

Ensure women's needs, such as safety, affordability and accessibility, are taken into consideration when transportation policies are formulated.

Develop a good system of roads throughout the country to remain on their lands and still have access to services such as health and education.

Develop and improve the country to equal access to markets.

Encourage women to learn non-traditional skills such as vehicle repair.

3. Encourage women to learn and equipment.

Encourage the use of non-polluting forms of transportation such as bicycles.

IV. Encourage the use of bicycles.

Develop cycle tracks in urban areas.

V. Develop foot paths.

7.2 SHELTER AND WATER

Strategic Objective:

Ensure that all women and their families have safe, secure and affordable shelter and water.

- f) Conduct gender policy appraisals and impact assessments on macro economic policies.

This objective has seen a major commitment on the part of the Papua New Guinea Government and the World Bank to establish the Papua New Guinea National Women's Credit Scheme. In 1996, two million Kina was provided by the World Bank while the Papua New Guinea Government made its largest contribution of five hundred thousand Kina to

the project. This was the PNG government has ever made to a specific project for women in an independent Board of T service machinery.

concept evolved from within Papua New Guinea

women in the Western Highlands Province. The concept was adopted by the Women's Focal Point and trialed out in two other namely Simbu and East Sepik. The successes of these pilot projects led to the of the scheme nationwide.

It is to be noted however th through a project initiative o

The economic downturn of PNG's economy has slowed progress in efforts to

Term Enterprise policy presents a starting point for women's effective formal economic sector. Since 1996, women of Papua New Guinea

ment at APEC level has influenced the development of the Papua New

women's Entrepreneur's Association. This Association comprises of women o Business Enterprises. The membership and business expanding each year as women continue to exploit the b

#### 4.3 Decision Making and Good Governance

decision making at all ledaken are highlighted

This objective is aimed at promoting women's active pa levels of the Papua New Guinea society. Specific and below.

- a) To take affirmative positive action for the realisation of section National Constituents to ensure women's representation in New

- b) To ensure women's representation in Local Level Government and Pro

base system of qualified and senior female

- c) To develop and prom public servants at

political parties to fund and allocate seats for female s at national and provincial levels.

- d) To gender candidate

women's leaders on different aspects of political leadership ve performances as politicians.

- e) To provide to ensure

Strategic Objectives

To provide information

to improve communications to women living

Actions:

Research and implement innovative distance communication systems and technologies appropriate to the varying geographic conditions of PNG.

Establish communication networks throughout the country of PNG, women and women's groups.

Ensure that women have access to

Develop the communication training and maintenance capabilities of women.

Encourage appropriate communications at affordable costs.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

8.0

Objective:

and support women's participation in agriculture and fishing, in both unpaid activities, particularly the role of women in securing food

Address gender issues and continue to support and strengthen in all areas of agriculture and fisheries planning.

Improve women's access to agriculture extension services.

Develop training and demonstration programmes on soil conservation and inter-cropping for sustainable development in agriculture.

Since 1995 Papua New Guinea women have taken an active stance in politics. The 1997 national election saw the entrance of 48 women contesting seats nationwide. Two women were appointed to the Government of the National Capital District. The Government of the Provinces has also appointed women to various positions. The Organic Law on Provincial Governments and Local Governments has also provided for the appointment of women to various positions. Papua New Guinea has 13 Provincial Governments and 14 Local Governments. There has been an increase in women's participation nationwide. In the Provincial level. At Local Government level Papua New Guinea has 264 appointed women members and at Ward level there are 11,949 women appointed. Total appointments of 5,747 women appointed members at Ward Councils are completed. Papua New Guinea will witness a total of 11,949 women members at Ward level.

Council. This specific region as a local system has members, their the best interest relation, a Non-targeting newly e in their newly leadership skills of interest in politics and by the Papua New

At Ward level two women's representative are allowed for in achievements is significant not only for Papua New Guinea but whole. The increasing number of women in Papua New Guinea raised concerns about the effective performance of the contributions to the level of debate and capabilities to secure development of women and communities. To this end, Women in Politics Government Organisation, has embarked on a leadership training appointed members. This project aims to assist the members to acquire roles. Issues addressed in these training projects include: communication skills, lobbying, advocacy, reporting and Workshods are conducted at regional level. The project is funded by the Papua New Guinea Government and UNIFEM.

**Administration**

**4.4 Integration of Gender issues in Government Planning**

not address Gender Papua New Guinea Government's recommendations to

The first edition of PNG's National Platform for action mainstreaming as a strategic objective, however, the PNG Delegation Report recognised its importance and made

- a) To seek technical assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat to set up gender management systems, including budgeting, accounting systems, impact analysis on policies and programs and gender based management information systems.
- b) Strengthen the national women's machinery by placing mechanisms at the highest level possible either as independent structures or in ministries with policy making responsibilities with adequate staffing and financial resources.
- c) To ensure that the officer in charge of the focal point are senior officials.
- d) Build up capacity in gender planning targeting National and Provincial Planners or policy makers. This training would also be institutionalised in technical

appraisals and impact assessment on macro economic

f) Conduct

emphasised the need to reduce the adverse effects of women taking note of recommendations made by the Secretary General on Sustainable Development for the 2000

Commonwealth macro economic Commonwealth

**Actions:**

- i. Increase women's representation in environmental management and development; particularly on forestry, mining and landowner boards.
- ii. Support appropriate environmental legislation, standards and management practices.
- iii. Enforce legislations to strengthen existing mechanisms in the  
Consumer Affairs Bureau to monitor and enforce the

Papua New Guinea's effort towards gender mainstreaming in government planning systems began in 1993. Papua New Guinea participated in a pilot project that was sponsored by UNIFEM targeting four countries of the region.

Planning is quite unique, because the approaches used in the regional approach for gender mainstreaming efforts in the region has evolved over the years. The approaches and concept developed local conditions in terms of culture, social and political structure. The Gender and Development Unit in the National Planning Office in Government were responsible for the project. The policy makers and NGO's involved with women's rights, concern are 1995 have shown what be in common with other Commonwealth Secretariat. The capacity in country must be stake off in a direction that is consistent with government priorities. Papua New Guinea's definition and approach that can be mental against previous misperception of the concept in the

Scientific progress that has been achieved during the first phase of the project has led to the inclusion of a section for gender implications in project formulation National Planning Office.

The role of advocacy continues to surface prominently in various forums as the volume reporting and interest from the Mass Media and the Community at large gender issues in the community. Women's NGO's are being called upon to to add media articles and take an active interest in awareness raising activities. submit



government  
programme

tion partners

monitor and  
Platform for  
missions by  
r-program responses

The National Council of Women and other grass-roots organisations have a complementary role to play on implementation, and policy advice.

The active support and participation of a broad range of institutions both government and NGO's is vital.

## 12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A logical framework including the output indicators will be developed to evaluate the progress of implementation of the Papua New Guinea Action. This framework will provide the basis for project and Government and Non-Government Organisations. The progress should be monitored by the Gender and Development Unit in close consultation with the Office of the Status of Women once established. Quarterly progress indicators will be established and reports presented to the Inter-Agency Women's Advisory

## 5.0 Highlights on Innovative Policies and Programs in Country

Despite the weakness and lack of a strong coordination point during the years after Beijing,

Papua New Guinea continued to experience an emergence of many policies and programs

which although may not have been a conscious response by the agencies concerned

do relate to the Global Platform for Action. These policy initiatives should be acknowledged

and supported as positive actions towards the achievement of the Platform for

Platform for Action has not been officially endorsed by the National Executive Council, the

over implementation of the Global and National Platforms for Action are continuing and

it has reported progress in the following areas:

Effective partnership relations, integration and collaboration must exist between all agencies both Government and Non Government to ensure there is no duplication and to rationalise our limited resources available in the country. To assist in this

Advisory Committee will need to be reactivated  
Platform and to help to mobilise available

process the Inter-agency M  
to monitor the implement  
resources of agencies.

ent Unit of Finance & Planning will be crucial  
ination between the different sectors.

The role of the Gender and  
in ensuring that there is effe

Commission has been urged by its member  
are primary attention towards work programme areas which  
ives towards achieving sustainable

At the regional level, the S  
primarily focuses on women's issues  
development.

Guinea has identified Women in  
re being made to ensure that in all  
issues are taken into consideration  
nt the priority areas identified under  
6 sustainable development which  
on and training, credit opportunities

The Australian assistance to Pop  
Development as one of its priorities  
sector programmes funded by AusA  
future Australian assistance will take  
this Action Plan, particularly issues  
includes human rights, women's health  
and law and order.

## 5.5 Politics and Government Sector

- Provincial Government Reforms allowing for female representation at provincial, local government, and ward levels
- Female Representation in the Constitutional Development Commission.
- Women in Political Leadership Training Project.

## Law and Order Sector

- Establishment of gender desk in the Police Department.
- Establishment of gender program in the Police Department.
- Gender training for new recruits in Defence Force.
- Recruitment of female soldiers in the Year 2000.
- Introduction of Gender Policy.

## Women's Human Rights

- Presentation before Parliament for Proposal for establishment of Human Rights deliberations.
- Intensive awareness by women's organisations of women's human rights.
- Legislative and policy review in relation to CEDAW and CRC.

## 5.8 Non-Government Women Organisation

- Targeted Community Development Project

• Review of current responses both from Government and the Non-Government Sector  
• Review on a sector by sector basis should be undertaken to establish the current status of each sector and to revise the National Strategy for Women's Development  
• Review of current responses both from Government and the Non-Government Sector  
• Review on a sector by sector basis should be undertaken to establish the current status of each sector and to revise the National Strategy for Women's Development

The above list is not an exhaustive list of activities undertaken to establish the current status of each sector and to revise the National Strategy for Women's Development. Hence there are many activities that have not been reflected in this report.

- iv. Develop and support an agricultural subsistence improvement programme for women using appropriate technology. Create markets for subsistence women farmers with subsidies for transporting goods to the nearest market.

Activities	Year	Conduct research on family members' contribution to the			no
courses for women to learn the various methods of fish and food processing particularly fruit for canning and sweet potatoes, yams, bananas and breadfruit.				vi.	Su pre ma
and support women as the traditional agriculturalists				vii.	Re

## 6.0 Major Obstacles Encountered

The Global Platform for Action has not been implemented effectively as originally intended. By 1996, the economy of Papua New Guinea began to deteriorate when

applied the structural  
expenditures which  
function being  
advancement  
Division had to

service led to a decline  
1996 to 1998 were tough  
no funding forthcoming  
the United Nations goals  
ment that has transpired  
sis on economic growth,  
ment and peace among

s focal point and the PNG  
ences of such setbacks and

were slow in introducing an alternate plan of action that was more practical and appropriate  
Papua New Guinea. Despite these obstacles the Government of Papua New Guinea  
as made considerable progress in many areas of the Global Platform as reported earlier in  
the report.

Government engaged IMF and the World Bank who supported an Adjustment Program (SAP). A focus of the SAP was to reduce expenditures, which resulted in drastic declines in the social sector budgets. Projects and particularly the Five Year Management Plan were shelved indefinitely due to financial constraints.

Additional setbacks related to policy directions to reorient the economy resulted in a decline in productive output due to low staff morale. The period 1996 to 1998 was a difficult time for the country as a whole. It was difficult to plan for the future from the government. The World Bank initiatives concentrated on gender equality and human development. The trend since has focussed on macro economic policies and while the UN objectives were gender equity, sustainable development and the peoples of the world.

Faced with the above background, the Government and the National Council of Women were unable to

introduce an alternate plan of action that was more practical and appropriate for Papua New Guinea. Despite these obstacles the Government of Papua New Guinea has made considerable progress in many areas of the Global Platform as reported earlier in the report.

Since the institutional mechanisms called for in the National Platform for Action were not accomplished, the Government's alternate decision had been revitalisation of the Inter-

**Actions:**

- i. Develop and implement government housing policy and programmes that are supportive of women, especially single mothers.
- ii. Institute effective systems for land tenure which include women as beneficiaries.
- iii. Ensure that women have access to information and resources for owning their own homes.

## 7.0 Future Directions

Clearly the early post-Beijing years presented challenges for Papua New Guinea and countries within the Asian Region, thus highlighting government's inadequacies in managing their economies and forcing governments to become more transparent and accountable to their populace. Although the Papua New Guinea Government has introduced emergency packages to restore its economy, the end result of these programs must be to improve human development in PNG society. Papua New Guinea women today have more problems to contend

with than ever before, particularly in the economic recovery programs. With the current emphasis on the economic empowerment of women, the challenge for Papua New Guinea is to enable women to influence policy-making and to bring forth the decisions that will affect gender equality in Papua New Guinea.

The existing alternate systems for Papua New Guinea. The existing system is quite weak and not capable of being strengthened. Existing alternate systems must be necessary

to have the national machinery to influence and assert directions across all sectors of government. The PNG Government more than ten years to resolve this issue. Women of Papua New Guinea will not stand by and watch the Government drag this issue into the new millennium.

Social Development and Gender Equality. The distribution of costs and burdens of economic recovery for women is to be involved in the decision-making processes. Reaching this threshold of human touch into the domains of policy-making during the past 24 years of

Finally, the National Women's Machinery must be examined to identify a suitable arrangement within the department,



**Actions:**

**A. Women With Disabilities.**

- i. Women's organisations should integrate the needs of disabled women in their plans and programmes.

Women's organisations should launch extensive education campaigns to discourage the exploitation of disabled persons by family members disguised as charity for income generating purposes.

- iii. Lobby for physical access for women and men with disabilities in public places.

**IV. Government** ... for disabled persons

... to take responsibility

... requiring all buildings to have facilities

... That legislation ... access for people

**B. Elderly Women.**

- i. Recognise older capabilities.
- ii. Instill and strengthen care for elderly women.
- iii. Promote health understanding of menopause.

... leadership contribution and

... esian values on the need to

... among women to increase values and the impact of

**C. Refugee and Displaced**

- i. Integrate needs of planning and program themselves.

... and displaced women into consultation with women

**ii. Provide rehabilitation services**

... proper training to help develop their

... women potential

## 8.0 Recommendations

The following suggestions are made to activate PNG's effective response to the Global and PNG Platform for Action during the years 2000-2005. It is important that the agencies implicated in the four critical issues endorsed by Papua New Guinea women must be involved in developing the program responses as the lead agency for the issue concerned:

1. Revision and finalisation of the National Platform for Action (1995-2005). A separate program of Action should be drawn on the four critical issue areas identified during the Post Beijing Conference. The Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Gender and Development should also consider the appointment of four working committees to conduct this task and to report its progress to the main committee. It is important that participation is sought from members of the committee.

Global Platform and Papua New Guinea's Platform for Action. A submission should be made to the CEDAW Committee on the four critical issues endorsed by Papua New Guinea women.

New Guinea's legislative framework and implications on CEDAW. The revision of CEDAW should be undertaken urgently to determine the following matters:

a) mechanism to coordinate and monitor the implementation of CEDAW

b) national women's machinery to promote women's CEDAW

c) and national machinery in Papua New Guinea CEDAW

d) and status of the Papua New Guinea National Council of CEDAW. The

## 6. CULTURE AND THE FAMILY.

### 6.1. CULTURE AND THE FAMILY

#### Strategic Objective:

To encourage women to learn and understand their own culture and be more appreciative of their Melanesian identity and values and, advocate for the elimination of practices that discriminate against women.

#### Actions:

- i. Integrate and encourage women's participation in national and provincial cultural activities.
- ii. Introduce legislation against polygamous marriages where polygamy is not practiced as customary law.
- iii. Adequate support is given to the wives where polygamy is practiced and review customary law.
- iv. Recognise and encourage traditional Melanesian ways of problem solving.
- iv. Provide appropriate training for village court magistrates and officers to adequately deal with problems relating to adultery, domestic violence, rape, incest and incestuous relationships.

available relationship and encourage cooperation between

ian values and spiritual development in the  
identity for Papua New Guineans.

d tradition and  
venacular.

vi. Nurture the positive aspects of  
encourage the teaching and translation

### 6.2 YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS.

#### Strategic Objective:

To provide equal opportunities to young women to develop their potential and participate in the community.

girls to develop

Gender and Development to meet on a quarterly  
convoked when necessary.

9. The Inter-Agency Com  
basis. Special meetin

10. The Global Beijing Platform For Action to be circulated and the Government  
women's focal point should have copies available in the office.

- xii. Monitor, review and strengthen legislations against sexual abuse and prostitution.

## 5.2 VIOLENCE.

### Strategic Objective:

To create increased awareness that violence is both a serious and pervasive violation of women's human rights, develop appropriate mechanisms to eliminate violence and mechanisms to ensure that the

### Actions:

- i. Promote legislation and enforcement of policies eliminating domestic violence as a national priority
- ii. Implement the recommendations of the Commission Report No. 14 on violence against women
- iii. Liaise with police and other relevant agencies to create an integrated data base on violence against women
- iv. Enforce legislation on child abuse including prostitution and provide appropriate support and counselling.
- v. Increase the number of police officers with special training to deal with women who are subjected to violence
- vi. Undertake innovative and wide ranging community based programmes to raise awareness about the root causes of violence against women.
- vii. Provide support through NGO crisis intervention through emergency financial and accommodation
- viii. Support efforts of churches to educate teachers on christian values and the value of human rights

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- xi. Seriously review the structural adjustment policies and GATT to assess its negative effect and impact on PNG women and support measures to regress this situation to more efficient...

- xii. Provide situation for women to n... about saving devices.

of single parents in... resources and financial credit.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CONDITIONS

Strategic Objective:

Review employment legislation and policies to ensure equitable terms, conditions and benefits for women workers in the private and public sectors. (Employment Policy 1990)

opportunity in employment.

Ratify relevant International Labour Organisation's legislation on employment of women.

Sensitise trade unions to

encourage participation of women members in trade union

work problems of women.

Research into stre

olicies against sexual harassment in work place.

vii. Enforce laws and... adultery and entice

form a union or association to... conditions.

vi. Assist domestic... advocate for better

services including resting... facilities and care centres in the work place.

workers in the public and private sectors... leave cov





**Actions:**

i. Ensure that all national boards have women's representation and monitor that they regularly consult with women's organisations.

ii. Work towards increasing women's participation in parliament.

representation in government and on  
and district levels.

iv. Ensure that gender issues are cons  
Budget and Planning Priorities.

v. Make available opportunities for wom

and provincial levels thro

vi. Ensure leadership train  
resolution, being construc  
How to conduct meetin

participation of women in the democratic process.

viii. Support the compilation of gender disaggregated data  
and compile a women's nomination file with biodata  
for nomination into decision making forums.

of Finance & Planning, and other appropr  
on issues affecting women.

x. Conduct gender awareness training targ  
leaders.

xi. Promote the sharing of roles and respo

family through innovative media campaigns, school and  
community education programs, emphasising gender equity and  
gender roles of women and men.

xii. Rec  
and



Papua New Guinea

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

# PLATFORM FOR ACTION

A DECADE OF ACTION  
FOR WOMEN TOWARDS  
NATIONAL UNITY  
AND SUSTAINABILITY

June 1995  
First Edition

- ii. Introduce measures to promote functional literacy with emphasis on health, nutrition, income generating skills, personal development, human rights, violence, constitution and land rights.
- iii. Support training of literacy trainers and provide incentives for trainers.

Facilitate coordination among organisations carrying out literacy and encourage NGOs to work together.

Develop radio broadcast programmes on adult literacy.

### 3. MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND SHARED DECISION MAKING.

#### 3.1 MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN.

Strategic Objective:

To introduce and strengthen existing mechanisms to promote the advancement of women at all levels and in all sectors of the community.

Actions:

- i. Upgrade the Women's Division to the Office of the Status of Women, that is effectively staffed and adequately resourced.
- ii. Revitalise and strengthen an effective partnership between the intended Office of the Status of Women (OSW) and the National Council of women (NCW) to clarify and understand their respective roles.
- iii. Strengthen the relationship between Government and other NGO's.
- iv. Revitalise the Inter Agency Women's Advisory Committee (IWAC).
- v. Support efforts to operationalise gender approach in all functional activities.

## FOREWORD

The past twenty years has been a period of tremendous change, accomplishment and challenge for women in Papua New Guinea. Women have made important

contributions to national development, particularly in susta

improved family planning services and family life education programmes directed at both men and women.

- viii. Increase government support of NGOs working in the areas of family health.
- ix. Minimise the socio-economic impact of STD/AIDS among the community.
- x. Advocate and promote environmental hygiene, the provision of

# THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA PLATFORM FOR ACTION

## PREAMBLE

emerging from

The Papua New Guinea Platform for Action is a national

document developed by the National Women's Council, the 24 Provincial District Women's Councils, the National Women's Policy Platform, and the Country Report on the Platform for Action to the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations and various workshops and consultative forums.

The government of PNG officially recognises the needs and potential of women and its endorsement of the National Women's Policy. This is in line with the National

Development Strategy where the first and second goal address Integral Human Development and Equality and Participation.

Specifically, the first goal addresses Integral Human Development:

"Everyone to be involved in our endeavours to achieve Integral human development of the whole person and to seek fulfilment through his or her contribution to the common good."

The second goal of Equality and Participation states:

"We declare our second goal to be for all citizens to have an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the development of our country."

"Equal participation by women citizens in all political, economic, social, and religious activities."

The Platform reaffirms the National Constitution, particularly the provisions of the National Constitution relating to the goal of Equality and Participation.

The critical areas for action are:

- Health, Education and Literacy
- Economic Empowerment and Employment
- Environment and Development
- Violence and Human Rights
- Peace, National Unity and Special Groups
- Gender Equity
- Water, and Communication
- Environment and Development affecting Women
- Land and Fisheries, and Foreign Investments

33	"	DAISY KENNEDY	EASTERN HLD CW.	PRESIDENT	<i>Kennedy</i>
34	"	A. TITUS	NORTH OLOMON PWC	PRESIDENT	ABSENT
35	"	A. BATA	EAST NEW	PRESIDENT	ABSENT

M. MASUD	ABSENT	37	J. GOLOWANG	YAMU S
RESIDENT IT	ABSENT	-	38	BARU

half of the island of New Guinea sharing  
Solomon Islands to the South East, and  
over 3.8 million people and is ethnically

and ethnic recognizes speaking  
800 different languages. Women make up 50% of the country's population.

Although women play a subordinate role to men especially in  
economic system. Women currently produce and process over  
food much of which is done with limited technical assistance.

Women's important role in sustaining family life and their overall contribution  
to national development has not been fully acknowledged.

Papua New Guinea gained independence in 1975 and endorsed the National  
Development Strategy as its blue print for development. The Eight Point Plan



PAPUA NEW GUINEA NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

995

ROOM

DATE: 1ST 3

VENUE: GRANVILLE CON

WOMEN'S SIGNATURES TO THE GRANVILLE DECLARATION

NO.	DATE	PARTICIPANTS	NAME OF THE ORGANISATION	BOE
			REGIONAL PRESIDENT	
			CENTRAL PCW PRESIDENT	3
			PAPUA REGION VICE PRESIDENT	4
			W. D. NIUEGA	
			KARAKA PRESIDENT	
			UMA PRESIDENT	
			WATLEN PRESIDENT	
			SANDAUN PCW PRESIDENT	ABSENT
			MADANG PCW PRESIDENT	
			CRO. PGW PRESIDENT	
			PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S CLUB PRESIDENT	
			S. MBU. PCW PRESIDENT	
			WARAINI PRESIDENT	ABSENT
			BANARASE PRESIDENT	

## I. STATEMENT OF MISSION

The Platform for Action gives recognition to strengthening the multiple roles of women in the family and community and consolidates the partnership between Government and Non-Governmental Organisations to achieve sustainable development, national unity and peace. It also recognises that the partnership between men and women is vital and uses mainstreaming of gender issues as an approach to accelerate the role of women in the development process.

provides a framework which outlines ways in which women  
powered to contribute more effectively and meaningfully to

The Platform  
can be enable  
society over the

The Platform for Action requires immediate action to redress longstanding

Aware of the fact that 40% of school age girls are not at school;

Concerned that over 60% of adult women cannot read and write and the continued failure of the education system to achieve gender equity in education continues to under-produce educated, prepared women leaders and homemakers;

Appalled that Papua New Guinea is one of the only five countries in the world with no women serving in National Parliament.

Noting that the government does not have a clear, well supported mechanism to deal with women's concern, and that the percentage of female senior and mid-level managers in the Public Services is one of the lowest in the region;

Fearful of the continued rapid degradation of Papua New Guinea's natural heritage (environment), with resulting increase in soil erosion, pollution and loss of bio-diversity, soil fertility, fisheries and wildlife resources, and for all concerned in fact this is already having on women and children's lives;

Involvement combined with the seriously worsening law and order situation, increased tribal violence, rape, harassment and violence against women and children;

That Papua New Guinea's women and children are being subjected to trauma, abuse and daily hardship;

That the situation is a result of a combination of factors, including tribal violence and sexual violence, drug and alcohol abuse and prostitution which have a disproportionate negative impact on women;

On 20th October 1993, in consideration of the foregoing statement of facts, the situation of women in Papua New Guinea they will be classified as among the worst in the world overall, and that the time has now come for concerted national mobilisation to achieve equality for women in all spheres as a matter of grave national interest;

And we immediately:

Call upon the 109 Members of Parliament to implement section 102 of Papua New Guinea Constitution relating to nominated seat in order to gain maximum representation of women at the National Parliamentary level, and that relevant procedures applying to Provincial political representation be also put in place;

Demand the improvement of maternal child health and reproductive health services especially to the rural areas as a matter of highest national priority as a key element of the structural adjustment programme with

Key Strategic Issues of the National, Sub-Regional and Global Platforms for Action.

National Issues	Pacific Issues	Global Issues
1. Health	1. Health	1. Poverty
2. Education, Training and Literacy	2. Education	2. Education
3. Mechanisms and Shared Decision Making	3. Economic Empowerment	3. Health
4. Economic Empowerment and Employment Opportunities and Conditions	4. Agriculture and Fishing	4. Violence Against Women
5. Legal and Human Rights	5. Legal and Human Rights	5. Effect of Armed and Other Violence
6. Culture and the Family	6. Shared Decision Making	6. Economic Empowerment