

Expert Consultation: Priorities in follow-up to the ten-year review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (2005)

United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)

Expert Consultation on

Priorities in follow-up to the ten-year review and

appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Aide Memoire

I. Introduction

The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) is organizing an Expert Consultation on “Priorities in follow-up to the ten-year review and appraisal of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action” which will take place in New York,

on

The review and appraisal heightened awareness that the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly - together with the outcomes of other intergovernmental processes, such as Security Council resolution 1325, as well as the articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - remain the valid global framework for promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

The Declaration adopted, by consensus, by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session, reaffirmed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The Declaration welcomed the progress made thus far towards achieving gender equality, stressed that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and in this regard, pledged to undertake further action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation.

The Declaration emphasized that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. It stressed the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in the 2005 World Summit. Importantly, the Declaration also recognized that the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and empowerment of women.

The Declaration called upon the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, all sectors of civil society including non-governmental organizations, as well as all women and men, to fully commit themselves and to intensify their contributions to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. This provides an important mandate for the renewed and accelerated efforts at national level to implement the existing policy framework.

It is now essential to focus on directing attention and resources to accelerated and effective follow-up and action to ensure full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. A critical element will be working quickly to build on the momentum of the review and appraisal process and to take full advantage of opportunities, at national, regional and at global level, for increasing attention to implementation.

In 2006 the Commission on the Status of Women will hold its 50th session. It will be important to both celebrate the achievements of this important international institutional mechanism for gender equality and empowerment of women and consider ways to enhance its role in the new millennium to more effectively address the challenges ahead. The 50th session of the Commission provides a unique opportunity to identify the key issues to be addressed in the follow-up to the ten year review in the context of the development of its new multi-year programme of work from 2007.

III. Objectives

The overall objective of the Expert Consultation is to identify priority issues in follow-up to the ten-