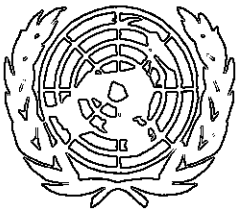


18481 ✓



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr. : LIMITED
E/ECA/ACW/CWD.II/2001/1
8 November 2001

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD)

Meeting on the Committee on Women and Development

5 - 8 November, 2001
Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia

MEETING OF THE CWD BUREAU

0 Meeting of the CWD Bureau
7 November 2001
14.30

The Chairperson of the Bureau of the CWD welcomed the members to the meeting and then invited the Director of African Centre for Gender and Development, (ACGD) Mme. Josephine Ouedraogo, to take the floor.

The Director of ACGD thanked the members of the Bureau on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. K.Y. Amoako, for coming to the meeting.

On agenda item 1, the Director explained that the Committee was founded in 1976, and its mandate has to do with issues of women and development agenda in Africa, and the implementation of the Platforms for Action. The Members of the Bureau of CWD should meet at least once a year. She pointed out that the Committee is supposed to identify priorities as well as recommendations in the area of gender and development, and report them to the ECA Conference of Ministers. The Committee is made up of 19 members, 10 NGOs, UN agencies and the joint Secretariat of ECA, OAU and ADB.

The CWD Bureau has five members representing the 5 sub-regions. There are two other members, namely, Congo in its capacity as the Chair of 6th Regional Conference and Zambia as the current Chair of OAU.

The Director then explained that the name African Centre for Women has changed to African Centre for Gender and Development to reflect the wider mandate of the Centre.

On taking the floor, the chairperson of the 6th African Regional Conference for women, congratulated the new members. The Director explained that normally, 2/3 of membership is changed every two years and the remaining 1/3 retained to ensure continuity. Representatives of each sub-region are chosen on the basis of alternating alphabetical order to ensure that those on the last end of the alphabetical spectrum do not take too long before being members. For instance, when choosing 2 countries from a sub-region in a given year, we would chose one country whose name is closest to A and the other whose name is closest to Z.

The Director also explained that the term is 2 years but that if the Bureau is not active, the membership would have to be renewed in the next meeting of CWD.

On Agenda item 2, the Director presented the agenda of the current CWD meeting comprising three main items: the first is activities reports on gender by the IGOs, the OAU and the ACGD. She also spoke about Africa's contribution to the 45th Commission on the Status of Women and noted the lack of co-ordination among African States in their participation. The second agenda item relates to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Platforms for Action while the third relates to the poverty reduction strategy papers. She also pointed out that there had been a parallel inter-agency meeting to examine how Africa is addressing gender issues, and how such efforts can be made more effective.

Congo noted that the ECA's Conference of ministers of Finance and Planning meeting conflicted with activities undertaken by many countries for women's day which falls on the 8th of March each year, and suggested a change in the date to enable more ministers of women to attend.

With regard to agenda item 3, the Director pointed out that IGOs need to understand that they are mandated to present their activities to the CWD. She suggested that it might be necessary for the Chairman of the CWD to write a letter to them, reiterating their mandate/responsibility to report their activities to this organ. In relation to this concern, Morocco pointed out that there was need for means and mechanisms for awareness creation.

Congo referred to better co-ordination and greater pressure on CWD members to meet their mandate. With regard to IGOs, she said it will be a good idea to send them a letter reminding them of their terms of reference. Regarding the ADB's lack of reporting on their activities to the current CWD Meeting she informed the Bureau that ADB had undertaken many activities in the area of gender and development, which can be shared with other IGOs.

Tanzania pointed out that it is imperative that pressure be applied to our ministers to gender mainstream, and that this would be better achieved if the joint secretariat of ECA, OAU and ADB was better coordinated. He suggested that UN agencies could help in capacity building to enhance gender mainstreaming in national policies by increasing capacity for analysis on gender issues, whether in poverty reduction or other development issues.

Morocco expressed concern about the role of the CWD on the issue of allocation of resources to gender issues by member States. In response, the Director of ACGD said that the Experts of CWD had agreed that funding of gender programmes and projects of member States, should not be left entirely to agencies.

The Chairperson pointed out that CWD had not been working hard, but agreed with the Congolese minister that CWD needed to be more active and forceful than it had been. CWD could pressure the ECA Conference of Ministers to set up their funding of gender programmes at the National level and obtain political commitment at the highest level.

Congo suggested that ministers in charge of women affairs be invited to the ECA Conference of Ministers meetings, to advocate for the inclusion of women issues at the country level. The Chairperson suggested that the recommendation made by the Congo should be brought up during the ministers meeting. Tanzania's representative said Congo's point was very important because finance and planning ministers discussed mostly macroeconomic issues. He also suggested that alternatively, gender ministries should submit a checklist of demands to be discussed at the ECA Conference of ministers. In contributing to this issue, the Director of ACGD pointed out that that the CWD is supposed to make recommendations to the ECA's Conference of Ministers. But if the Bureau felt it was necessary and more effective for ministers in charge of women affairs to participate in the ECA Conference of ministers, then the Bureau would have to negotiate with the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Amoako.

Under AOB, the Director sought clarification as to whether recommendations emanating from this meeting should be included in the agenda of the ministers meeting, or whether they should be presented at the end of the report as recommendations that have been endorsed. Congo, suggested recommendations be incorporated in the report, so that they can be discussed as item number 3 of the agenda of the ministers' meeting.

The Chairperson thanked members of the Bureau for very fruitful discussions and closed the meeting.