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ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

*First Preparatory Meeting for the Sixth African Regional
Conference on Women for the Mid-Decade Review of the
Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms For Action*

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
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Introduction

1. The first preparatory meeting for the Sixth African Regional Conference on Women for the mid-decade review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms For Action was held in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, from 26 to 27 January 1999 at the UN Conference Centre. It was the first in a series of planned preparatory meetings leading to the Sixth Regional Conference on Women to be held from 22 to 27 November, 1999 in Addis Ababa. The meeting was organized by the African Centre for Women (ACW) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).
2. The main objective of the meeting was to establish a Technical Preparatory Committee and to develop strategies to facilitate the organisation of the Conference. The organizations present were invited on the basis of their mandates and capabilities to facilitate the preparatory process and successfully organize the Conference.
3. The meeting was attended by the members of the proposed Technical Committee who included members of the Bureau of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD), formerly the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC); selected Regional IGOs and NGOs as well as representatives of the UN system. The list of participants is attached as annex 1.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Opening and adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

4. The meeting opened with a welcome address from Ms. Josephine Ouedraogo, Director of the African Centre for Women followed by a statement by Her Excellency Mrs. Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, Minister of Family, Social Action and National Solidarity in Senegal and President of the Fifth Regional Conference on Women. Mrs. Lalla Ben Barka, Deputy Executive Secretary made an Opening Statement.

5. In her address, Ms. Ouedraogo welcomed the participants and thanked them for honoring the invitation. She apologized for several postponements of the meeting and the inconveniences caused. She thereafter presented the procedures for the preparatory meetings, their respective duration and objectives. Considering the magnitude of the work to be undertaken, she called on commitment and forging of stronger partnerships.

6. Mrs. Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, Minister for Family, Social Action and National Solidarity of Senegal, wished participants peace, good health and success in their endeavours. She particularly commended the Executive Secretary of the ECA who, understanding that Africa's renaissance would heavily depend on the status of its women, had decided to embark on the boldest reforms so that this enlightened vision would be best shared and become one reality for the year 2000 and beyond. The current meeting was important in that it marked the launching of the preparations for the Sixth African Regional Conference on Women

7. She observed that the members of the Committee on Women and Development, the experts and the representatives of United Nations specialized agencies and NGOs would have to review together the various stages of preparation by drawing lessons from the preparation and organization of the Fifth Regional Conference. She then reviewed the process of preparing and organizing the Fifth Regional Conference, emphasizing the challenges that her country had faced in that regard.

8. Through intensive mobilisation, the African Platform for Action had been convincingly upheld and defended by women from all walks of life in order to insure that it was fully taken into account in preparing the Beijing Platform for Action. She welcomed ACW's wisdom in planning for the establishment of a Technical Preparatory Committee to oversee the preparations for the Conference, including the process of assessing the implementation of the Regional and Global Platforms, and the formulation of appropriate strategies, for the benefit of governments, for conducting comprehensive assessments of progress made in the eleven critical areas of concern.

9. She noted that the Committee on Women and Development was now capable of actively pursuing its tasks of coordinating, directing, monitoring and backstopping the work of the Technical Preparatory Committee. Given what was at stake, the effective involvement of all players in the preparatory process and the support of development partners would be crucial to the attainment of set objectives. Before concluding, she appealed to participants, on behalf of the Bureau, to ensure that the political will and expertise of partners and donors alike would be mobilised in order to reflect the commitment of the meeting objectively, comprehensively and with the degree of relevance that an accurate assessment of the status of African women and their future would require.

10. Taking the floor, Mrs. Ben Barka, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA welcomed participants to ECA and more particularly to ACW whose work was a source of pride to herself and the Executive Secretary. The current Conference was of great importance, being the first of a series that would guide Africa towards the Regional Conference in November 1999. The track record established since the Beijing Conference should be an objective assessment of the volume and quality of the work done. Coming as it would on the eve of the millenium, the Regional Conference would have to take stock of the individual and collective efforts that Africa and its partners had made and highlight both the results achieved and their impact.

11. For that to happen, it would also be important to conduct an objective appraisal of the policies, strategies and machinery established at the institutional, policy, financial and human resource development levels in order to achieve and guarantee genuine sustainability. She called on the Committee to be action oriented in its approach since the task was difficult and would involve conducting a fair analysis and taking bold decisions regarding the vision, priorities and options, revisiting them and realistically making difficult choices by focusing on what would be feasible. She described her own experience in education, women's advancement, gender and development and summed up the impact of those activities. Five years after the Beijing

Conference, participants needed to focus on a comprehensive analysis, objective and constructive criticism and what could be learned from the assessment of the eleven areas of concern. While those areas were inter-dependent, the issues of information, training and education in the broadest sense deserved particular attention.

12. As the century came to a close and the new millenium began in the information age, Africa (and more particularly its women) had a unique opportunity to seize. Whether in terms of their rights, access to land, understanding of reproductive health and the related nexus issues, policy advocacy, conflict resolution of peace, women had to have the right information at the right time and needed to be trained in the skills of resolving their problems without having to expect others to do it for them.

13. She had come to the firm conclusion that no women would be proud to see in the coming decades an Africa that was economically poor, lost in the struggle between fragile democracies and resurgent dictatorships, torn by strife, whose women had lost hope, whose children were starving and without a hope of going to school. To avert all that, women would have to bring Africa's people and decision-makers back to reason.

14. In that endeavour, women would have to be better positioned at levels of responsibility and help their people to better understand the real issues and to find appropriate solutions. Participants would have to go beyond their differences of opinion in order to mobilise every energy and resource for building the capacity and skills that women needed to fully execute their role. She ended by reaffirming ECA's preparedness to work with its tried and tested friends and partners in this all important exercise and wished participants every success.

Adoption of the agenda and programme of work (agenda item 2)

15. The agenda and programme of work were adopted without amendment.

Establishment of the Ad hoc Technical Preparatory Committee (agenda item 3)

16. Before considering the agenda item, the meeting observed a minute of silence in remembrance of the late husband of the Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Development.

17. The following bureau was unanimously elected :

Chairperson: Minister in Charge of Women Advancement in Tunisia, Chairperson of the Bureau of the Committee on Women and Development, H.E. Ms. Neziha Zarrouk.

Vice- Chairperson: Minister for Family, Social Action and National Solidarity of Senegal, H.E. Ms. Aminata M'Bengue Ndiaye.

Rapporteur: African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), the Regional NGO which organized the NGO forum at the Fifth African Regional Conference on Women

18. Unanimously the Technical Preparatory Committee for the Sixth Regional Conference was composed as follows:

- The Bureau of the Committee on Women and Development
- The non-governmental organisations FEMNET, Microfin Afrique, Abantu for Development, Association Tunisienne des Mères (ATM), Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) and the PanAfrican Women's Organisation .

- All United Nations specialized agencies, including the World Bank
 - OAU and ADB
19. ACW will serve as the secretariat of the Committee

Terms of reference

20. The Committee's terms of reference are set out in document E/ECA/FMPTC/RC.VI/99/3

Consideration of the agenda, objectives and work programme for the 6th Regional Conference (agenda item 4)

Proposed Format of the Conference

21. ECA's proposed format is based on holding a single session which brings together government and civil society representatives. The underlying principles behind this proposal aim to:
- Break the traditional monologue which has been the pattern at previous statutory meetings and to promote dialogue between policy makers and NGOs;
 - Enable all the players working in the critical areas of concern to play active decision-making roles with respect to the Conference.

The meeting achieved consensus on the principle of partnership with the possibility for governments, NGOs and other participants to network and share experiences within the context of the parallel activities planned for in the Conference programme.

Draft Programme of Work for the Sixth African Regional Conference

22. The consensus achieved by the end of discussions comprised:

1. Special Forum: African Cultural Identity in the Next Millennium

Maintaining the special forum on African cultural identity on the Conference agenda. However, there was concern that the time allotted for considering this issue would not be adequate to exhaustively discuss the subject. It was also agreed that the Festival of African Art could be relaunched during the forum.

2. African Women Parliamentarians

It was noted that the space for presentations by African Women Parliamentarians had been erroneously omitted in the draft programme. Corrections were consequently made.

3. African Rural Women

It was agreed that African rural women should be given the opportunity to express their views themselves at the Conference

4. African youth

It was the unanimous view of the meeting that the youth should be involved in the preparation of and also participate at the Conference.

5. The United Nations

In this regard, it was proposed that a special slot should be reserved in the programme for specific agency presentations.

6. Evaluation Workshops

It was proposed that the morning sessions should be devoted to presentations on progress made over the five years after the Beijing Conference while the afternoon sessions would be focusing on the process of evaluation.

7. Parallel Activities

Parallel activities would include exhibitions and gender training sessions.

8. The Plan of Action for the next five years

It was considered necessary that strategies should be formulated and machinery established to facilitate the drafting of the plan of action, during the Conference.

9. Change in Venue

The Minister from Cote d'Ivoire expressed the apologies of the government for withdrawing its offer to host the Conference due to numerous other commitments during the same period. The new venue for the Conference is Addis-Ababa, at the ECA headquarters.

10. Any other business

It was proposed that the length of time for the Conference work programme be prolonged if necessary, to exhaust all the items on the agenda.

Process of evaluating the implementation of the Dakar Platform for Action before and during the Sixth Regional Conference (agenda Item 5)

23. The Director of the ACW presented a proposal on the process of assessing the implementation of the African PFA. The proposal suggests two levels of assessment, one on the implementation of national Plans of Action, and the second on the implementation of the strategies defined for each of the eleven critical areas of concern. On the first level, the 53 national reports will be prepared by the respective governments and ACW will synthesize the reports into one summary document. On the second level, the assessment will highlight the progress made, obstacles encountered, good practices; monitoring, reporting and support mechanisms established from a regional perspective, for each of the eleven critical areas of concern specified in the Platform for Action.

24. The proposal also suggests a timetable for the preparation of the assessment reports beginning March and ending October 1999. The key task for the first phase lasting three months centres on planning, collection and analysis of data and writing of the draft documents. The second phase scheduled for June involves critical reading and synthesis of the documents into one key thematic report, and elaboration and development of discussion guides for the working groups. Tasks for phase three to take place in July include development of the workshop facilitation methodology, review of the technical papers, identification of resource persons and the finalisation of the Conference programme. Document translation, editing and reproduction will be carried out by the end of September. The documents will finally be disseminated to participants in October. Thirty-three international experts and six translators will be required for the entire preparatory period.

25. The proposal further outlines the process of the evaluation workshops to be held during the Conference, each focussing on one of the 11 priority areas from the PFA. The themes will first be presented in plenary by panelists. The session will be followed by the evaluation workshops; which are further subdivided into three working groups each, on the assessment of mechanisms of implementation, the assessment of review mechanisms, and the assessment of support mechanisms respectively. Discussion guides will be provided for these workshops. It will be the duty of the workshops to propose Plans of Action for the next five years, to be presented together with the discussion reports in plenary. Consensus will then be developed on the priority measures to be adopted during the year 2000.

Interventions

26. During the discussion that followed, the following interventions were highlighted:

1. It was noted that two formats for presenting the national reports have been distributed, one by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW), and the other by ACW. It was however agreed that the fundamental objective was to produce a true, informative and exhaustively analytical and qualitative report and countries should use either format to prepare their reports.
2. There is need to use common indicators of success when evaluating the progress made in order to produce the national reports. The meeting was informed that countries were encouraged to develop national plans of action after Dakar for their own self-assessment, and in so doing, set targets and criteria for follow-up. Preparation of the national reports should therefore be based on the objectives set out in the national plans of action, and both NGOs and governments should be involved in writing the assessment reports. The meeting was also informed that there were already initiatives being carried out on the assessment of the implementation of the PFA, notably one done by FEMNET, and that collaboration with these initiatives would be advisable. It was also suggested that UN agencies be requested to support the countries to prepare and send their national reports to ACW and the UNDAW.
3. On the criteria for determining 'good' practices, it was agreed that it would be more realistic to discuss innovative experiences, and that what would be considered as 'bad' practices would in fact contain crucial learning points for the future.
4. The importance of Africans themselves preparing their assessment reports was emphasised. UN agencies and donors were urged to assist in mobilising African experts in each country for the task. The representative from UNDP pledged support but could not immediately commit the agency to a specific figure before discussing further with ACW as well as consulting with the different country offices.

Consideration of a strategy for disseminating and utilising the results of the Conference. (agenda Item 6)

27. It was decided that the discussion on this item be postponed until the next meeting.

Review of the profile of participants to the Sixth African Regional Conference (agenda item 7)

28. The Director of ACW introduced the document on this agenda item. This was followed by an intensive discussion and an exchange of views on the issue of numbers proposed for each category. The following issues were raised:

1. The need for ensuring true partnership between governments and NGOs in the spirit of the new guiding principles for the Conference;

2. The numbers of governmental and NGO participants should be considered within the same spirit of cooperation, goodwill and partnership;
 3. There will be need to restrict the number of participants from each country to those agreed at the Technical Committee meeting, in order to keep to a manageable number of participants;
 4. The Technical Committee should develop clear guidelines and criteria for the selection of participants from national as well as regional levels;
 5. There will be need to address the issue of government and NGO partnership as a substantive issue within the agenda of the Conference since this is an area in which they need to reach an agreement for the follow up activities before and after the Conference.
29. The final list of categories and numbers of participants was agreed upon as follows:

Category	No. per country	Total
Government participants	10	530
Parlamentarians	3	159
Thematic NGOs	3	159
Women's Associations	7	371
Youth Associations	2	106
Regional and sub-regional NGOs	-	50
Journalists	2	106
UN Agencies	-	100
Bilaterals	-	50
Inter Governmental	-	25
Committee on Women and Development (formerly ARCC):	-	40
Volunteers	-	50
Total		1746

30. The need to have a clear picture of who will be invited for the Conference and for ensuring that only those who are invited travel to Addis Ababa was stressed. In this regard it was agreed that ACW will send out guidelines to all Governments and NGOs in all countries as soon as possible and all parties will ensure that the guidelines for participation to the Conference are adhered to.

Consideration of the Conference Budget and financing modalities (agenda item 8)

31. The proposed budget for the Conference was presented by the Director of ACW. She explained that ECA had no specific budget for covering expenses other than the costs of use of facilities, interpretation, reproduction etc., as indicated as the contribution of ECA to the total cost. In the discussion that ensued, a number of issues were raised as follows:

1. Whether the Centre had to raise funds for all the participants since in the past, governments have been responsible for funding their participation to the meetings.
2. The feasibility for ACW to put together an appropriate secretariat capable of handling the information flow in light of the current staffing situation and regular work load.
3. The possibility of getting financial, technical and logistical support from other UN agencies and NGOs at regional and country levels. The Director of ACW gave an example of how FEMNET had assisted in making one of its staff available to work on Conference preparations. She said that this was the only consultant that she had been able to recruit so far.
4. The amount of time left for raising funds was a major concern given the fact that many agencies obligate funds far in advance; and may be unable to assist within the short time left.
5. The need to mobilise financial and technical support.
6. It was strongly recommended that a specific fund-raising strategy to guide the Technical Committee and all the parties both government and NGOs be developed. The need for learning from past experiences was also stressed, particularly the need for co-ordination between various agencies in the financing of the Conference and the provision of technical support to countries.
7. The members of the UN agencies represented expressed a desire to lend support and in this regard, requested for further consultations with the Director of the ACW.
8. UNFPA proposed that countries could seek support from their Country Support Teams (CST) which are already working on the evaluation of the implementation of the Cairo Plan of Action in preparation for the Cairo + 5 Conference. This means that they are already tackling one of the eleven thematic priority areas.
9. A letter signed by the Executive Secretary requesting for financial and technical assistance from ADB, UN, multi-lateral and bilateral agencies should be sent out as soon as possible. It was suggested that ADB and UN Agencies could either avail personnel to work within ACW to prepare evaluation reports or alternatively undertake the thematic evaluations themselves.
10. The issue of space and costs of holding exhibitions and the availability of interpreters during the evening sessions and for parallel activities was raised. It was explained that this had been a problem during the 40th Anniversary Conference. It was agreed that the Technical Committee should propose registration fees for all participants and agencies participating in the Conference and parallel activities, as a way of contributing to the cost.
11. The need to identify national-level focal points which could help with information flow and in coordinating the national delegations was identified. It was agreed that ACW should send out letters seeking support from development partners at national and regional levels as soon as possible.

12. On the issue of the consultants to be involved in the preparatory process, it was agreed that a geographical balance was mandatory.

Adoption of a timetable for the preparatory phases (agenda item 9)

32. The Director of ACW presented the proposed timetable for the preparatory phase. The timetable was divided into three phases which included this first preparatory technical meeting. The breakdown of the time-table is attached as annex. Tunisia accepted to host the meeting and the Chairperson of the Committee proposed the dates 18 to 19 June, 1999. After some discussions, the date was accepted with the suggestion that all the participants should adjust their programmes to accommodate these dates. The dates for the September meeting will be agreed upon at the June meeting.

33. Another issue debated extensively was the sponsorship of the participation of NGOs to the two remaining technical committee meetings. The ACW Director stated that even through ECA sponsored the participation of Committee members to the first preparatory meeting, it would not be able to sponsor participation to the other meetings due to lack of funds. Participants would have to raise their own funds for travel and other expenses. Most of the NGOs however expressed concern over this issue since they have already allocated their budgets and may not be able to raise additional funds in the short time available. After consideration and debate, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Government of Tunisia offered to meet the costs of accommodation and subsistence for participants attending the meeting. However, it was agreed that members of the Technical Committee should raise funds for their travel.

34. The timetable was approved as it was planned.

Any Other Business (agenda item 10)

35. Under this agenda item, the representative of the African Development Bank (ADB) made a statement explaining the situation of the Gender Programme within the ADB. The statement included a historical background on the restructuring at the Bank and the present location of the Gender Programme within the Sustainable Development and Environment Unit. She explained that ADB was carrying out gender-related work and that it was also planning to recruit four more gender specialists. In the new Bank vision which was recently adopted, gender and environment were both considered to be the Bank's major cross-cutting issues. The main areas of focus of ADB include agriculture, health and education, sectors in which women play a significant role. In addition the Bank has a micro-finance programme AMINA, in which building the capacity of women is given high priority. In the discussion that followed, members made some suggestions as to how ADB could become more active in the follow-up to the Beijing Conference and in the implementation of the Platform for Action.

36. The meeting decided to send a Communiqué expressing solidarity with the women of Sierra Leone at this time of armed conflict in the country and particularly requesting for the creation of a corridor for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population. The Communiqué was read and unanimously adopted for dispatch to various people including the Pope, the President of Sierra Leone, the warlords, President Clinton, the OAU, the British Prime Minister and others. It was agreed that it be put on the Internet immediately.

37. The absence of governments and NGOs from Eastern and Southern Africa at this preparatory meeting was raised as a major concern. It was then agreed that equitable geographical representation is mandatory for all preparatory meetings as well as for the Conference itself.

The Closing

38. During this session, the meeting recapped on the final list of categories and numbers of participants to be invited to the Sixth African Regional Conference on Women. The meeting also received the draft report of the deliberations of the previous two days. Various amendments were proposed, either to fill in gaps or clarify issues or agreements reached by the Committee. The report was then adopted unanimously.

39. In her closing remarks, the Chairperson thanked Committee members for the confidence they had shown in electing her to the chair. She pledged to steer the work of the Committee to her best ability in order to achieve success in the Regional Conference and the entire process leading to the Beijing + 5 Conference. She thanked the Director of ACW for her dynamic leadership and commended her and the staff for the meticulous planning that had gone into the preparations for the meeting.

40. She lauded the new partnership approach that will ensure government and NGO co-operation in the preparatory process and that illustrates an increased adoption of democratic practices in Africa.

41. She thanked the members of the Committee for their patience and commitment that had resulted in consensus decisions which are the best foundation for partnership. She thanked the interpreters for their patience and conscientiousness and finally declared the meeting closed.

ANNEXES

1. List of participants
2. Report of the meeting with partners

Working documents

3. Terms of reference for the Technical Preparatory Committee for the Sixth African Regional Conference on Women
4. Draft Programme of Work for the Sixth African Regional Conference on Women
5. Timetable for the Technical Preparatory Committee

Annexe 1. List of Participants

First preparatory meeting for the Sixth African Regional Conference on Women, 26 – 27 January 1999

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- | | |
|--|--|
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Interagency Meeting on the mobilization of partnerships for the
6th African Regional Conference on Women

Date: 28 January 1999

Attendance

1. African Centre for Women, Addis Ababa
2. UNIFEM, New York & Nairobi
3. UNDP Addis Ababa
4. World Bank Addis Ababa
5. ILO, Abidjan
6. OAU Addis Ababa
7. UNFPA/CST Addis Ababa
8. Subregional Development Centre (SRDC) Niamey West Africa
9. SRDC Tangier North Africa
10. SRDC Yaounde Central Africa
11. African Development Bank (ADB) Côte d'Ivoire
12. The list of the representatives is attached as annex.

The meeting started with brief remarks from the Director of ACW. She thanked the group for making time to attend the meeting which is a valuable means of brainstorming on how best to collaborate in facilitating the organization of the 6th Women's Regional Conference.

Reacting to the remarks, it was pointed out that the meeting emanates from the belief in partnership building and support for the successful servicing of the 6th Women subregional meeting. The participants requested for clarification on how and where to start, to concretize the activities planned for the conference. This question was discussed extensively with emphasis on:

- the evaluation process
- the national reports
- Synthesizing the reports
- Utilization of 33 consultants for the assessment of 11 critical areas of Dakar Platform
- Sources of support and funding and technical mobilization.

On these issues the following were agreed upon:

- (i) The need for all the group to own the process,

- (ii) The need to clearly define tasks before identifying needs and funding sources
- (iii) The budget was rather overwhelming. It needed to be trimmed into a manageable budget since agencies will also support national requests and the partnership building at national level. One area which could be reduced was on the 33 consultants. There should be 22 consultants instead of 33. It was felt that four months (March-June) will be sufficient for the assignments while reducing the number of consultants for the 11 critical areas, there should be at least two editorial consultants (one for the english, one for the french). These consultants would be contracted on a lump sum basis since they do not need to sit at the Centre for the full 12 months.
- (iv) The cost of Post Conference publications should be added to the budgets. These consultants would also play a coordination role
- (v) The thematic assessments should use data and information available in various agencies such as UNFPA evaluations, Habitat, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIFEM
- (vi) The importance of considering together the preparation for the Regional Conferences, New York Prep com of March 1999, Beijing +5 of June 2000 so that it all becomes one process.
- (vii) Exploring the possibility of getting UN volunteers to assist in the preparatory process.

Status of Commitments:

- (i) UNDP will need to consult with the country Resident Representative before she can come out with a clear-cut answer. UNIFEM is interested in facilitating the process and will try to negotiate for the necessary support and the discussions so far will help in making the case.
- (ii) UNIFEM will get back to ACW as soon as possible
- (iii) UNFPA stated that they have documents on the 11 critical areas that can be made available for analysis if required
- (iv) ADB would like to support but ACW should indicate areas that do not require assistance before July. It was advised that ADB gender focal point should get the Bank to create a line for Women issues.
- (v) ILO will not be in a position to provide funds for operational costs but can make technical
- (vi) World Bank suggested that the ECA Executive Secretary who is good in fund raising should send a letter soliciting funds.
- (vii) OAU was identifying for contributing to the peace component. A letter to that effect should be drafted by the OAU gender focal point.

Before closing, the group agreed that they will constitute the Inter-agency task force for the Technical Preparatory Committee. They also decided to meet on a regular basis to monitor progress. In her conclusion, Mrs. Ouedraogo, expressed her appreciation for the partnership which has started that will go further to meet the requirements for the organization of the Regional Conference. She stated that a letter will be sent immediately to the agencies, for mobilizing funds.

Inter agency meeting 28/1/99
List of participants

Name	Agency	Address	Tel. Fax.
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**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

*First Preparatory Meeting for the Sixth African Regional
Conference on Women for the Mid-Decade Review of the
Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms For Action*



Distr.: LIMITED

E/ECA/ACW/FMTPC/RC.VI/99/3
January 1999

ENGLISH
Original: French

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TECHNICAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
SIXTH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

The African Platform for Action mandated the Committee on Women and Development to ensure follow-up of the recommendations of the Fifth Regional Conference as well as to convene the Sixth Regional Conference, in close collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). Through the African Centre for Women, the ECA ensures the Secretariat for these statutory conferences. It is the usual practice to involve United Nations agencies and other actors involved in the advancement of women in Africa.

To this end, the ECA proposes the establishment of a technical committee to follow up and support preparations for the Conference.

Role of the Committee

- ☐ Definition of the process of evaluation of the implementation of the African Platform for Action.
- ☐ Identification of the human resources necessary for the preparation of the Conference
- ☐ Identification and mobilisation of participants
- ☐ Mobilisation of financial resources for the Conference

Bureau of the Committee

The Committee will have a bureau composed of three members:

- ☐ Chairperson: The President of the Committee on Women and Development
- ☐ Vice-Chairperson: The President of the Fifth Regional Conference
- ☐ Rapporteur: A representative of regional NGOs

The African Centre for Women of the ECA will ensure the Secretariat of the Technical Preparatory Committee.



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January 1999

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

***DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SIXTH AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
Addis Ababa, 22 – 27 November 1989***

Monday 22 November: Opening and Presentation of the Progress Report of Dakar + 5

9:00 - 10:00 Opening of the Conference

Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:00 Plenary 1: Progress report of Dakar + 5
♦ African governments (15 Minutes)
♦ Women NGOs (15 Minutes)
♦ Women parliamentarians (15 Minutes)
♦ Discussions (45 Minutes)

12:00 - 1300 Plenary 2: Progress report of Dakar + 5 (Continued)
♦ OAU (15 Minutes)
♦ ADB (15 Minutes)
♦ UN (15 Minutes)
♦ Discussion (30 Minutes)

Lunch Break

15:00 - 16:00 Plenary 3: Progress report of Dakar + 5
♦ Rural Women (15 minutes)
♦ African youth (15 Minutes)
♦ Discussion (30 minutes)

Coffee break

16:30 - 17:30 Plenary 4: Presentation on the process of Evaluation

17:30 - 19:00 Exhibition - Caucus

Tuesday 23 November: Presentation on six Evaluation Workshops

09:00 - 17:00

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4	Workshop 5	Workshop 6
Women and Poverty	Women, education, training and access to Science and Technology	Women, the family and Socialization	Women, Health, reproduction, Family planning and population	Women and the environment	Women in politics

17:30 - 19:00 Exhibition - caucuses

Wednesday 24 November: Evaluation Workshops (Five themes)

09:00 - 17:00

Workshop 7	Workshop 8	Workshop 9	Workshop 10	Workshop 11
Women's legal and Human rights	Women and Peace	Gender disaggregated data	Women communication, Information and Arts	The Girl-child

17:30 - 19:00 Open space and Caucuses

Thursday 25 November: Special forum on African cultural Identity in the next millenium and presentation of the outcome of the workshop

09:00 - 11:00 Plenary 5: Special forum on African cultural identity in the next millenium

Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00 African arts exhibition 2000

Lunch Break

15:00 - 17:00 Plenary 6: Synthesis reports of the outcome of the 11 workshops

- ♦ Presentation of the reports
- ♦ Discussions

Coffee- Break

17:30 - 19:00 Plenary 7: Synthesis Reports of the outcome of the 11 workshops (Continued)

Friday 26 November: Africa's participation on World Conference Beijing + 5

09:00 – 13:00

Working groups on:

- ◆ Draft Plan of Action for the next five years
- ◆ Modalities for Africa's participation at the International Conference Beijing + 5
- ◆ Draft Declaration

Lunch Break

16:00 – 17:00

Plenary 8

Presentation and discussion of Action plans for the next five years

Coffee Break

17:30 - 19:00

Plenary 9:

Africa's participation on the World Conference Beijing + 5

- ◆ Report on the World Conference
- ◆ Report on the modalities for Africa's participation at the World Conference
- ◆ Reading of the Draft Declaration

Saturday 27 November:

The Closing

12:00 - 13:00

Closing of the Sixth African Regional Conference on the Mid-Term review of the Implementation of the Dakar Platform for Action.



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**UNITED NATIONS
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

*First Preparatory meeting for the Sixth African Regional
Conference on Women for the mid-decade review
of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action*

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
26-27 January 1999

**Technical Committee for the preparation of the Sixth African Regional Conference
Timetable for the preparatory phase**

Title: First Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee
Dates: 26 - 27 January 1999
Venue: Addis Ababa
Objectives: 1. Establishment of the Committee
2. Preliminary review of:
- the basic issues related to the preparatory process, with respect to the format, key issues for the conference, profile of participants, budget and the preparatory phases.
- envisaged follow-up to the conference

Title: Second Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee
Dates: June 1999
Venue: Tunisia
Objectives: 1. Finalisation of the programme
2. Review of the technical inputs and working documents
3. Adoption of a strategy for mobilisation of participants
4. Review of the funding situation

Title: Third Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee
Dates: September 1999
Venue: Addis Ababa
Objectives: 1. Review of the progress made in the preparatory process.
2. Identification of gaps and corrective measures
3. Consideration of the outline of the declaration resulting from the conference.

Sixth African Regional Conference on Women, Addis Ababa, 22 - 26 November 1999

Title: Final meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee

Dates: 27 November 1999

Venue: Addis Ababa

Objectives:

1. Assessment of the outcome of the conference
2. Discussion on strategies for follow-up and the process leading to the year 2000 mid-term review of the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action