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**Report of the Mission to Morocco and Botswana:  
Training Workshops on Monitoring and Evaluation**

**May - June 2002**

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# **Report of Mission to Morocco and Botswana: Training Workshops on Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Mainstreaming gender in all government policies, plans and programmes through the formulation and implementation of sound national gender policy frameworks is considered the most effective strategy for achieving the objectives of the Platforms for Action. And yet, the Sixth African Regional Conference ( November 1999) to review progress achieved in the implementation of the Platforms found that only 18 countries reported to have formulated or to be in the process of formulating national gender policy frameworks that would guide national development. Besides, out of those that had national gender policies, hardly any of them had put in place the necessary institutional mechanisms to monitor and coordinate implementation or the resources to ensure the requisite skills either for gender mainstreaming or monitoring and evaluation. The sixth Regional Conference therefore adopted the **African Plan of Action** that underlined the imperative of ensuring that every country establishes a mechanism to monitor and evaluate continuously the implementation process of the Platforms for Action particularly the mainstreaming of national gender policies into policies, plans and programmes.

In order to put in place an evaluation mechanism, the Beijing Platform for Action recommends that the regional commissions should "promote and assist national institutions in monitoring and implementing the PFA". To that end, the ECA African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Programme with Tools to be applied at National, Sub-Regional and Regional levels. The programme will be used to assess progress made at national, sub-regional and regional levels in the implementation of the platforms and the impact they have had on the status of women.

The overall goal of the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme is to promote and advocate for the integration of a gender dimension into national development policies, plans and programmes, with the aim of contributing towards policy adjustments and strategies, that will accelerate the achievement of gender equality and sustainable development. Specifically, the programme aims at:

- Strengthening the commitment of member states to the implementation of the PFA;

- Building the capacity of member states to mainstream the objectives of the Platforms in their national development policies and programmes;
- Strengthening the capacity of member states to appraise, evaluate and report the progress made at the national, regional and global levels; and
- Laying the groundwork for impact assessment of gender mainstreaming on the status of women.

The M&E Programme was reviewed and validated by the Committee of Women and Development (CWD) meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 2001. The Programme that targets 21 countries that are currently members of CWD, was launched in 2002 with the implementation of the capacity building component which comprises two parts: the Capacity Building Workshops and support to the monitoring and evaluation process.

The Capacity Building component constitutes one of the three components of the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme. This component is planned to prepare and facilitate the implementation of the Programme within the framework of the regional and global preparations for the Beijing + 10 meetings in 2004 and 2005. It will comprise two components: a series of Training Workshops on the actual implementation of the Programme and support to the monitoring and evaluation process.

The Capacity Building Workshops are primarily aimed at those actors who have the major responsibility for:

- Collecting the necessary information and data;
- Producing regular monitoring reports and discussing them with the decision-makers within their ministries who are responsible for taking corrective measures in the implementation process; and
- Coordinating the process from the beginning to the end.

At the level of the 20 countries, the participants will be the *National Monitoring and Evaluation Officers* in the ministries in charge of gender and women's issues, the *Sectoral Monitoring and Evaluation Officers* from the selected ministries and one representative per country from the *National Coordinating Non-government Organizations* who will be responsible for coordinating information gathering in relevant NGOs. Given the specific resource constraints of time, finances and human power, the number of the participating ministries was limited to six key ministries, namely, Finance, Planning, Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Health and Ministries in charge of Gender. The choice of these ministries is strategic because, given their specific mandates, their acceptance to integrate gender internally would have a multiplier effect both on other ministries and on women in general. The participating NGOs will be selected and coordinated by the national coordinating NGO with the assistance of participating

ministries. In order to equally familiarize and enhance co-ordination at the sub-regional level, SRDCs were requested to nominate an Officer who will follow-up the Programme.

## **2. MISSION OBJECTIVE**

The mission objective was to train and prepare the Monitoring and Evaluation Officers from the participating countries and sectors for the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme.

The training workshops for English speaking countries in Northern and Western Africa took place in Tangier, Morocco and for English speaking countries in Eastern and Southern Africa took place in Gaborone, Botswana. They were conducted by the ECA Team constituted by Hannah Tiagha, Hilda Tadria and Eva Kiwango and were joined by the Team from ABANTU for Development in Botswana.

## **3. MISSION ACHIEVEMENTS**

The objectives of the two-missions were all fulfilled as follows:

- a) The Monitoring and Evaluation Programme and corresponding tools were presented during a one-week workshop from 3 – 7 June in Tangier, Morocco and during two five-day workshops from 17 – 21 and 24 – 28 June 2002 in Gaborone, Botswana. The workshop reports are attached (Attachment 1 and 2). These reports represent the synthesis of the training experiences and exchanges.
- b) The M&E capacity of policy makers and experts, who are responsible for gender mainstreaming, from the ministry in-charge of gender, Finance, Planning, Agriculture, Health and Trade and Industry and NGOs from Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Seychelles, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Botswana, and from SRDCs for North, West, East and Southern was reinforced. The workshops provided an interactive forum where the respective roles were defined and the time frame for using the M & E Tool in preparation for Beijing + 10 was mutually understood and accountability internalized.
- c) Challenges of implementing the programme and relevant recommendations were prioritized, and necessary actions proposed. It is these recommendations and proposed actions that will be used to design and guide ECA backstopping technical assistance during the implementation of the M&E programme.
- d) The participants also developed Plans of Action to implement the M&E Programme. (See relevant annex in attachment 1 and 2).

- e) The creation of a network of linkages with Policy makers. This network is expected to have a multiplier effect both on other ministries because it adopts a holistic approach, as opposed to a sectoral approach, to mainstreaming gender into development work.

#### 4. THE WAY FORWARD

The Capacity Building Workshops in Morocco and Botswana succeeded in enhancing the capacity of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officers to assess the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action. Having developed this capacity of the member States, ECA is now ready to embark on the process of the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme. This will include the following activities:

- The monitoring officers will build consensus with the decision makers in their ministry about the activities to be monitored, the expected outcome, and the benchmarks.
- The monitoring and evaluation officers will carry out the baseline monitoring exercise from July to December 2002 and continuous monitoring and corrective action from January to April 2003.
- Sectoral officers will submit the sectoral baseline monitoring reports to the National monitoring officer by October 2002 and the second monitoring report by May 2003.
- National Monitoring officers will synthesize national baseline monitoring reports from the sectoral monitoring officers, the first by end of October 2002 and the second by June 2003.
- The National Monitoring officer will submit the national baseline report to the SRDC by November 2002 and follow up monitoring report by July 2003 respectively.
- The SRDC will synthesize national monitoring reports into one subregional report and submit it to ACGD by December 2002 and September 2003 respectively.
- The evaluation process of the African Plan of Action will be carried out in 2004 in preparation for the regional and global Beijing +10 conferences. The National and Sectoral officers will play a central role in the evaluation process.

The implementation of the M&E programme will occur in parallel with the second part of the capacity building component, namely the provision of technical support. ECA will travel to various countries to monitor the process of the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme. Teams comprising of representatives from ACGD, SRDCs and

the collaborating institutions, particularly ABANTU, SADC and PAID, will travel to selected countries within each subregion to follow-up the monitoring exercise in 2002 and 2003. This follow-up will ensure that the process is evolving as intended, where there are problems, corrective measures will be advised.

## **5. PARTNERSHIP**

It should be emphasized that the Workshops in Tangiers and Gaborone could never have been realized without the very active partnership of CAFRAD in Tangiers, that negotiated a comprehensive contract with the hotel for a residential workshop and also assumed the cost of all local transportation; and in Gaborone, ABANTU for Development that not only participated in the training but also assumed the cost of travel and subsistence of all the participants, the Department of Women Affairs in Botswana that assumed the cost of all local transportation and the secretarial costs, and the SADC Secretariat that negotiated the contract with the hotel for a residential workshop and also provided secretarial services.