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**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
African Centre for Gender and Development**

**Final Internship Report on the Young African
Professional Programme
19 November 2001 – 19 August 2002**

**Report of the Internship of the Young African Professional Programme
In the African Women Committee on Peace and Development Secretariat
19 November 2001 to 19 August 2002**

Background

The African Women Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD) was established in December 1998 at the initiative of ECA and AU and in conformity with the recommendations of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action for the advancement of women. The overall mandate of the Committee is to facilitate the participation of women in issues of peace promotion and conflict resolution at the decision-making level at nationally, subregionally and regionally. At ECA, ACGD that initiated the process of the creation of AWCPD, and worked hard for the realization of the idea, has remained the Focal Point for the Committee. In this capacity, it plays an advisory role to the Committee and backstops its work as necessary. ACGD was therefore involved in formulation and following up of the programme of the Intern as explained below.

The Internship Programme

By the end of the first two years of the life of the Committee, it became clear to ACGD that to facilitate the work of AWCPD, it was necessary to prepare a data base that would consist of certain basic information on the state of conflict in Africa and the different strategies that had been put forward to deal with this situation. The Committee also needed to have a data base on the institutions working in the area of peace promotion in Africa and outside

Considering that the Interim Secretariat of AWCPD had only two staff members, the Interim Executive Secretary and the Administrative Assistant, it was clear it would need additional assistance to compile the data base as described above. It was in this context therefore that ACGD advised AWCPD Secretariat to request the services of Ms Elsie Attafuaah as an Intern within the Young African Professional Programme

Specifically, the terms of reference of Ms Attafuaah basically required her to assist in the following tasks:

- The development of a data base of major conflicts in Africa including the DRC, Burundi and the Mano River Countries

- Conducting research on the and surveys of peace building strategies and initiatives in Africa
- The development of profiles of African and non-African women organizations working in the area of peace
- Collection of reference materials on conflicts and peace in Africa
- Preparation of position papers and briefing notes on peace issues and contribution to the writing of various reports

Ms Attafuah was supervised directly by the Interim Executive Director of AWCPD who also shared the state of her performance with ACGD.. A number of direct meetings were also held between ACGD and Ms Attafuah during her internship. From these discussions, it was clear that she performed her tasks diligently and successfully and contributed significantly in creating an information base for the Committee as requested. Ms Ettafuah was also able to contribute in other areas within the Secretariat including

- Preparing a proposal for a capacity building programme to build the skills of women to promote sustainable peace in Africa
- Mobilising financial resources for the implementation of the capacity building programme
- Outreach activities on behalf of the AWCPD Secretariat

A detailed report on Ms Attafuah's activities and performance are attached.

Assessment

ACGD was constantly able to guide the work of the Intern to ensure that it contributed meaningfully to the needs of AWCPD as assessed by the Centre. The Intern was able to fill an important gap in the AWCPD Secretariat that to date has not increased its personnel. Indeed her departure has interrupted the process for resource mobilization for the capacity building programme. Other ways have to be found to complete this important initiative.