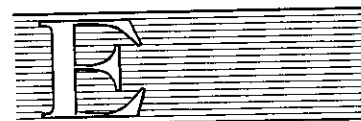


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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD)

Meeting of the Ethiopian National Advisory Panel (NAP) of the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI)

22 May 2003
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
THE NATIONAL ADVISORY PANELS OF
THE AFRICAN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

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Background

African states have committed themselves to various international and national gender conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In most countries National Gender Frameworks have been developed and national machineries set up to address gender issues. Development partners all over the continent likewise are promoting the implementation of various gender programmes. It is important to monitor these policies and programmes, and to assess their relative achievements. It is also critical to compare the relative progress made among African countries so as to point out possible underlying concerns.

The Beijing Platform for Action calls for regular monitoring and evaluation of the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Plan of Action. Six years after the Beijing World Conference on women, the challenge is to develop an index that measures the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action and that incorporates issues such as participation, empowerment, equality and equity. This calls for the definition of the relevant variables that will capture the experiences and achievements in the Africa Region.

ECA recognises the importance of monitoring and evaluating progress made in addressing gender issues, not only to stimulate socio-economic development by 'integrating' women into development processes and to ensure equal participation. To facilitate an effective monitoring mechanism on gender equality, ECA is introducing an African Gender and Development Index (AGDI), which will be published in ECA's flagship publication, the African Women's Report, 2002/3.

The AGDI will provide a mechanism for critical analysis by measuring the effects of gender policies, and by comparing African countries among themselves.

In developing the AGDI, ECA hopes to achieve a number the following:

- To monitor and report on progress in addressing gender inequalities and inequities that exist between men and women.
- To monitor and report on progress on women's empowerment and advancement.
- To provide African policy makers, gender planners and politicians with an appropriate tool to measure the extent of the advancement in implementing programmes aimed at addressing gender inequalities and strengthening women's empowerment.
- To monitor the action being taken in implementing conventions that African countries have ratified.
- To democratise statistics and monitoring tools by providing not only gender planners but also NGO's with a monitoring tool that is effective and easy to use. In this way the AGDI will stimulate the process of community participation and enhance political awareness of gender concerns which is vital to processes of women's empowerment.
- To provide a tool that is not only able to measure progress in quantitative ways, but also in qualitative terms.
- To stimulate interdepartmental co-operation within the countries in which it will be applied, as the various conventions, charters and documents addressed are implemented within different departments.

The AGDI consists of a Gender Status Index and an African Women's Progress Scoreboard which will allow for a more objective way to measure the achievements and limitations of the progress.

As part of the methodology National Research Institutions will undertake the collection of data for the AGDI in the 13 trial countries. The involvement of research institutions will ensure collection of quality data directly from national data banks. The Research institutions will also guarantee national ownership through close collaboration with governments and civil society.

National Advisory panels have been introduced as part of the methodology of developing the AGDI and producing the AWR to ensure transparency and quality control.

Responsibilities of the National Advisory Panels

- To support the research institutions in the collection of national data that is accurate of high quality.
- To assist facilitate institutions in accessing the relevant data
- To review the institutions' methodology for collecting data
- To review the data collected by the National Institution
- To review the National report prepared by the research institutions, which includes the AGDI data before it is submitted to the ECA.

The National Advisory Panel will have three meetings:

- ii) First meeting:
 - briefing on the AGDI
 - briefing on the TOR of the Advisory Group
 - discuss the methodology of data collection:
 - identify sources of data and how the relevant institutions will assist in data collection.
- ii) Second Meeting
 - Receive status report from institutions and review progress
- iii) Third meeting
 - Review data collected for the GSI and the AWSB
 - Review national report

Composition of the National advisory Panel

The group will comprise representatives from the following ministries or their equivalents:

- National Machinery for Women's Affairs or Gender
- Ministry in Charge of Health
- Ministry in Charge Education – Primary, Secondary and Higher Education
- National bureau of statistics
- Ministry in Charge Agriculture

In addition two (2) independent experts will be required

- Gender
- Statistics

Other members will be:

- An NGO representative
- One (1) other independent institution

The representative of the National Machinery for Women's Affairs or Gender will chair the meeting(s) of the National Advisory Panel.

The Research Institution will assist the National Machinery for Women's Affairs or Gender in organising for the meetings.

The advisory panel is an advisor to the National Research Institution. The National Institution is accountable to ECA.