

ECA - CEA



Economic Commission for Africa  
Commission économique pour l'Afrique

**PRÉSENTATION DU PROCESSUS PRÉPARATOIRE DE BEIJING + 5**  
**RÉGION - AFRIQUE**

**Exposé de Mme Joséphine Ouédraogo**  
**au Groupe Africain - 29 février 2000 - New-York**

*Mr Zachi*  
*(2) Tallet*  
*file #74*

## I- INTRODUCTION

- 1- L'évaluation à mi-parcours de la mise en oeuvre des plateformes d'action de Dakar et de Beijing a été coordonnée par la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA) selon le mandat confié aux cinq commissions régionales des Nations-Unies.

Le Centre africain pour les femmes au sein de la CEA est la structure directement chargée de cette coordination. A cet effet, le Centre a lancé un processus de sensibilisation, de suivi et d'évaluation qui s'est étalé sur deux ans (nov 97- nov 99).

La première phase du processus a été consacrée à l'organisation de quatre réunions sous-régionales au cours desquelles le Centre a examiné avec les états, l'avancement de la préparation des plans d'action nationaux pour la mise en oeuvre de la Plateforme de Beijing: la méthode d'élaboration des plans nationaux, la qualité des données utilisées, la disponibilité de ressources humaines et financières, l'existence ou non d'un mécanisme national de suivi du plan d'action, etc..ont été abordés au cours des réunions sous-régionales. A cette occasion, le Centre a proposé aux états le canevas pour la préparation du rapport national d'évaluation à mi-parcours des progrès réalisés depuis Beijing. Ces rapports nationaux devaient être envoyés à la Division de la Promotion de la Femme à New-York et à la CEA en vue de la préparation de l'évaluation de Beijing + 5.

La deuxième phase du processus a été consacrée à l'organisation de la Sixième Conférence régionale africaine sur les femmes (22-26 novembre 1999 à Addis-Abeba).

- 2- La CEA a voulu innover dans l'organisation de cette rencontre statutaire et inter-gouvernementale qui a lieu tous les cinq ans depuis la première Conférence régionale africaine tenue à Nouakchott en 1977. Les domaines sur lesquels la CEA a voulu innover, avec bien sur l'accord du Comité Femmes et Développement, organe responsable de la convocation des conférences régionales, sont les suivants:

- Le format de la Conférence: la durée a été plus courte que celle des conférences précédentes, 50% du temps des travaux devait être consacré à des sessions de groupe, les rapports des gouvernements ne devaient pas être présentés individuellement en séance plénière.
- La participation aux débats en plénière était ouverte aux ONG et à d'autres acteurs de la société civile (parlementaires, média nationaux, organisations de jeunes, etc.).
- Le processus d'évaluation de la mise en oeuvre de la Plateforme a impliqué l'ensemble des acteurs: plusieurs rapports d'évaluation ont été entendus par la conférence; la synthèse des rapports gouvernementaux, le rapport des ONG, les rapports des agences du système des Nations-Unies, les rapports des trois organisations intergouvernementales régionales (OUA/BAD/CEA), et douze rapports d'évaluation des douze domaines prioritaires de la Plateforme préparés par la CEA pour alimenter les travaux de groupes.

## II- RÉSULTATS DU PROCESSUS D'ÉVALUATION

Les questions auxquelles le processus d'évaluation devait répondre sont les suivantes:

- L'environnement politique de l'après-Beijing a-t-il été favorable à la mise en oeuvre de la Plateforme?
- Les mécanismes institutionnels dévolus à la mise en oeuvre de la Plateforme étaient-ils adéquats et opérationnels?
- Les ressources allouées à la mise en oeuvre de la Plateforme étaient-elles disponibles?
- Quels sont les progrès significatifs enregistrés dans la condition des femmes en Afrique, au niveau des domaines prioritaires définis par les deux plateformes d'action (Dakar et Beijing)?
- Quels sont les problèmes majeurs auxquels il faut accorder une attention particulière?

- Quelles actions faut-il engager au niveau politique afin de lever les contraintes et les obstacles à la mise en oeuvre de la Plateforme?

#### **A- L'environnement politique de l'après-Beijing**

L'ensemble des gouvernements africains ont confirmé d'une manière ou d'une autre leur engagement à réaliser les objectifs de la plateforme de Beijing; l'existence de plans d'action nationaux, la formulation de politique nationale pour la promotion des femmes ou l'élaboration d'un cadre de politique nationale pour l'égalité des sexes, sont le canal généralement utilisé pour l'expression de cet engagement politique. Les pays qui n'ont pas pu formuler ce type d'engagement sont généralement ceux qui ont connu des situations de conflits armés ou d'instabilité politique prolongée.

Au niveau sous-régional, il faut noter la Déclaration sur l'égalité des sexes, faite par les Chefs d'Etat des pays de la SADEC à l'occasion de la tenue de leur Sommet de 1998.

Si la volonté politique de soutien aux objectifs de la Plateforme de Beijing a été explicite, elle n'a cependant pas été accompagnée des mécanismes et des ressources qui devaient en faciliter la mise en oeuvre.

#### **B- Les mécanismes institutionnels:**

98% des états africains disposent d'une structure nationale chargée de la promotion des femmes; dans la majorité des cas, il s'agit de départements ministériels; dans d'autres cas, il s'agit de bureaux nationaux ou de services rattachés à la Présidence de la République ou au Premier Ministère. Cependant il faut noter que le statut politique accordé à ces structures au sein de la hiérarchie gouvernementale et les ressources qui leur sont allouées ne sont pas toujours à la hauteur de la volonté politique exprimée à l'égard de la promotion des femmes dans les différents pays. Il en est de même des moyens mobilisés pour la mise en oeuvre des plans d'action nationaux et autres stratégies relatives à la mise en oeuvre de la plateforme de Beijing.

Le constat le plus largement partagé est le fait que les différents départements ministériels qui composent le gouvernement n'ont pas encore suffisamment intégré les objectifs de la plateforme de Beijing dans leur politique sectorielle respective. En réalité, chaque membre du gouvernement devrait être responsable de rendre compte de la mise en oeuvre de la plateforme en ce qui concerne les objectifs qui touchent son secteur d'intervention.

#### **C- La disponibilité des ressources:**

La communauté internationale a répondu à l'appel de Beijing et des fonds existent pour la mise en oeuvre d'actions qui concourent à la promotion des femmes; ces fonds extérieurs passent par des canaux souvent méconnus des structures qui en ont le plus besoin. L'abondance des ressources est un fait, mais les mécanismes pour leur déblocage et leur utilisation restent soumis à la seule discrétion des bailleurs de fonds, ce qui entraîne des duplications et des restrictions regrettables. Les ressources extérieures constituent dans certains cas un alibi pour des gouvernements qui s'empêchent d'allouer une part notable des ressources budgétaires nationales à la mise en oeuvre des objectifs de la plateforme de Beijing; le niveau du budget national alloué à la plateforme est un indicateur de la volonté politique en faveur de l'égalité des sexes: dans la majorité des pays les fonds nationaux consacrés à la promotion des femmes ne dépassent guère 1% du budget national.

#### **D- Les progrès significatifs enregistrés depuis Beijing:**

Il n'a pas été possible de mesurer l'impact des efforts consentis depuis Beijing sur la situation des femmes: une telle démarche nécessiterait qu'au départ l'on s'accorde sur un protocole d'indicateurs d'impact et sur des modalités de suivi et d'évaluation tant au niveau national qu'au niveau sous-régional et régional. La CEA a initié un processus qui doit permettre d'établir un protocole d'indicateurs d'impact dans les douze domaines prioritaires de la Plateforme.

À travers les rapports nationaux et les évaluations sectorielles, il a été possible seulement de noter les progrès réalisés en terme d'actions spécifiques entreprises au cours de la période, en terme de ressources additionnelles investies dans des actions visant à réaliser les objectifs de la plateforme, en terme de mesures politiques exceptionnelles prises dans le sens de soutenir les objectifs de la plateforme, en terme changements dans les législations en faveur d'une meilleure reconnaissance des droits des femmes. Il s'agit en fait d'une évaluation des efforts consentis depuis Beijing pour promouvoir les droits, le statut et le pouvoir des femmes.

En termes de progrès notoires dans la situation des femmes, trois secteurs peuvent être cités:

- *L'éducation*: tant au niveau des ressources allouées au secteur qu'au niveau des effectifs scolaires féminins, de sérieux progrès ont été enregistrés dans bon nombre de pays: 7 pays ont adopté l'accès universel à l'éducation primaire.
- *L'accès des femmes aux instances de décision*: la sphère parlementaire s'ouvre de plus en plus aux femmes; dans 3 pays d'Afrique australe et orientale le pourcentage des femmes au parlement se situe entre 25 et 33 % (Seychelles, Afrique du Sud, Zimbabwe). L'on assiste à la nomination de femmes à des postes ministériels qui leur étaient jusque-là fermés, comme les affaires étrangères, le développement économique, le plan, le budget, etc...
- *L'évolution des lois*: à la faveur des réformes agraires et foncières, les femmes ont de plus en plus accès à la propriété foncière; de nouveaux codes de la famille tendent à protéger les droits des femmes en cas de divorce et de veuvage; en ce qui concerne la ratification du CEDAW (Convention de lutte contre toutes les formes discriminations à l'égard des femmes), la tendance est d'obtenir la levée des réserves exprimées par les pays d'Afrique du Nord.

**E- Les problèmes majeurs auxquels il faut accorder une attention particulière**

- Le VIH/SIDA constitue une pandémie dévastatrice dont le plus grand nombre de victimes se trouvent être les femmes et les jeunes;
- La recrudescence de la pauvreté: en Afrique sub-saharienne, 51% de la population vit en dessous du seuil de pauvreté (34\$ par mois) contre 22% en Afrique du Nord. Les femmes constituent la majorité des populations pauvres (environ 70%). La tendance n'est pas à la baisse, malgré les engagements pris à Copenhague lors du Sommet mondial sur le Développement social;
- L'accroissement du taux de mortalité maternelle (800 à 1000 décès pour 100 000 naissances) lié à la faible couverture sanitaire et aux mauvaises conditions de vie des populations et notamment la surcharge du travail des femmes;
- La violence publique et domestique à l'égard des femmes persiste malgré les grandes campagnes de sensibilisation menées sans relâche par les organisations de la société civile avec l'appui des agences des Nations-Unies;
- Le niveau d'atrocités commises lors des récents conflits à l'égard des populations civiles notamment les femmes et les enfants est source de grande préoccupation.

### III- LE PLAN D'ACTION AFRICAIN 2000-2004

Les représentants des états réunis à Addis-Abeba lors de la Sixième Conférence régionale africaine ont renouvelé leur engagement vis-à-vis des objectifs de la Plateforme d'action de Beijing à travers l'adoption d'un plan d'action pour les cinq prochaines années. Ce plan a pour objectif de lever les contraintes d'ordre politique et institutionnel qui limitent la mise en oeuvre de la Plateforme.

A travers ce Plan d'action , les participants à la Conférence proposent de:

A-Mettre en place un *mécanisme national de coordination* des actions relatives à la mise en oeuvre de la Plateforme: ce mécanisme devrait relever du Premier ministre ou de la

Présidence de la République et intégrer l'ensemble des départements ministériels. Le ministère chargé de la promotion des femmes jouerait le rôle de secrétariat du mécanisme.

B-Mettre en place un *mécanisme de suivi et d'évaluation* à partir de la formulation d'indicateurs nationaux de suivi et d'impact qui embrassent l'ensemble des secteurs de développement.

C-Mettre en oeuvre des actions affirmatives pour *la nomination des femmes à des postes de décision* dans les structures nationales, sous-régionales et régionales, l'objectif étant d'atteindre 33% des effectifs d'ici l'an 2004.

D-Mobiliser *les ressources nécessaires* à la mise en oeuvre de la Plateforme tant au niveau interne qu'externe et s'assurer que les femmes ont accès aux facilités accordées à la promotion du secteur privé.

E-Renforcer les compétences des techniciens et des décideurs du secteur public et privé dans *l'utilisation des concepts et des outils de l'analyse selon le genre*.

F-Formuler et mettre en oeuvre une politique nationale de *prévention et de lutte contre le SIDA*.

G-Renforcer la *lutte contre la pauvreté* par la mise en oeuvre de stratégies qui visent à satisfaire les besoins élémentaires des populations y compris l'accès aux services sociaux de base.

La rédaction du Plan d'action a impliqué la participation de représentants de gouvernements, de représentants d'ONG et de représentants des agences des Nations-Unies à travers un groupe de travail qui s'est tenu pendant 2 jours en marge des sessions de



la sixième Conférence; il a été adopté par consensus au cours de la dernière séance plénière de la Conférence. Le Bureau de la Conférence a pris l'engagement d'y incorporer des amendements qui seraient transmis ultérieurement par les états au Secrétariat.

Ces amendements pourraient également être reçus lors au cours de son examen par le Comité des Ambassadeurs.

L'adoption de ce Plan d'action par le Conseil des Ministres permettra à l'Afrique d'apporter une contribution adéquate à l'élaboration du Document qui sera soumis à l'adoption du PrepCom et de la Session Spéciale de Beijing + 5.

Sa mise en oeuvre relèvera de la responsabilité des états et des institutions intergouvernementales sous-régionales et régionales, avec la collaboration des organisations de la société civile et de celle des partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux.

## A N N E X E S

Inter-agency Committee on  
Women and Gender Equality  
Fifth Session  
New York, 23-25 February 2000

IACWGE/V/1  
14 February 2000

### **PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS**

1. Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda.
2. Emerging challenges.
3. Mainstreaming a gender perspective and follow-up to inter-sessional activities:
  - (a) Compilation of good practices
  - (b) Budget codes and financial monitoring systems
  - (c) Women in development/Gender focal point study
  - (d) Quantitative and qualitative indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress in implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming
  - (e) Methodologies for gender impact analysis
  - (f) WomenWatch
  - (g) Compilation of gender training materials
  - (h) System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women.
4. Field-level implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming: review of CCAs and UNDAF from a gender perspective.
5. Inter-action with ACC mechanisms.
6. Preparations for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", 5 to 9 June 2000.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report, including dates and provisional agenda for the sixth session.

## ANNOTATIONS

### **Item 1: Opening of the session and adoption of the agenda**

1. Ms. Angela E.V. King, Chairperson of the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality, will make an opening statement and review the Committee's work programme for its fifth session. The Committee will also be provided with a preview of the work programme of the forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (28 February to 2 March 2000), and of the third session of the Commission acting the preparatory committee for the Special Session (3-17 March 2000).

#### Documentation:

- \* Provisional agenda and annotations for the fifth session of the Committee (IACWGE/V/1)
- \* Proposed programme of work for the fifth session of the Committee (IACWGE/V/2)
- \* List of documents before the fifth session of the Committee (IACWGE/V/3)

#### Documentation for information:

- \* Provisional agenda and annotations for the forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2000/1)
- \* Provisional agenda and annotations for the third session of the Commission acting as preparatory committee for the Special Session (E/CN.6/2000/PC/1).

### **Item 2: Emerging challenges**

2. Members decided to include this item to allow for a structured discussion of emerging challenges, within their entities and organizations, in the follow-up to and implementation of, the Platform for Action and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective. Rather than presenting information on activities undertaken by them, members are encouraged to identify issues that require structural and/or policy interventions from the UN system. It would also be useful to identify emerging trends or themes in areas such as norm and policy development, operational activities, and institutional questions which the system as a whole, or individual entities are facing. The discussion could highlight challenges to the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy. The discussion could also highlight issues that need to be addressed in the framework of the Beijing + 5 process, and in particular further actions and initiatives (see the Report of the Secretary-General on a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to be issued as document E/CN.6/2000/PC/2, available in advance unedited version on the DAW Website). In this regard, attention is drawn to the ongoing intergovernmental process to elaborate the outcome for the special session (see the Chairperson's text on the proposed outcome of the special session, E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.1, and subsequent revisions). It will be recalled that in 1995, the Committee presented its comments on the then draft Platform for Action in a joint statement to the Commission on the Status of Women. Consideration could be given to the presentation of a similar joint statement to the Preparatory Committee for the special session which could contain proposals for actions that are of particular relevance from a system-wide perspective. Committee members' attention is also drawn to the issuance, by ACC, of an ACC statement to serve as input into the preparatory process.

### **Item 3: Mainstreaming of a gender perspective**

3. Item 3 consists of eight sub-items. It is proposed that the sub-items are introduced and discussed briefly in plenary to provide general guidance on decisions to be taken thereon. Working groups could then further review the various sub-items and prepare proposals for further action. The working groups will prepare draft decisions and report back to plenary for decision by the Committee.

#### **(a) Compilation of good practices for implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming**

4. At its third session, the Committee designated UNIFEM and UNDP as task managers for compiling good practices for implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming, in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Committee (see ACC/1998/3, Annex V). At the Committee's fourth session, the Committee entrusted the task force to continue its work in accordance with further guidance provided by the Committee (see ACC/1999/3, paras. 5 to 15).
5. In particular, the Committee endorsed the database presented by the task force as the basis of the development of a full-fledged database of good practices. The Committee also agreed to develop a publication of selected good practices to be produced in time for the special session in June 2000. This publication should aim to communicate examples of United Nations accomplishments in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming. Finally, the Committee decided to convene a round table profiling the best of United Nations good practices in implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming at the special session.
6. The prototype of the database, which is expected to be launched at the time of the special session, will be presented to the Committee. Some fifty good practices are ready for eventual posting on the site, and the Committee will be asked to continue its discussion of the parameters for selecting good practices. The Committee will also be asked to discuss, and make a selection of some 10 to 15 available good practices to be included into the good practices publication, to be distributed at the special session. The Committee will be called upon to decide on the format, and participants, for the IACWGE round table on good practices during the special session. Finally, the Committee will be asked to discuss the next steps for the good practices database. This would include questions of how the collection should continue, who would be involved in it, and how the continuation of this effort is to be funded.

#### Documentation

- \* Report by the task manager UNIFEM/UNDP on good practices (IACWGE/V/4)
- \* Power point presentation of the database of good practices

#### **(b) Budget codes and financial monitoring systems**

7. At its third session, the Committee decided to continue its work on gender budgets, budget codes and financial monitoring. The Committee designated DAW as task manager for this work. At its fourth session (see ACC/1999/3, para.16), the Committee requested that the task force, chaired by the Division for the Advancement of Women, continue its investigation of this question and to seek the resources required (US\$ 50,000) to carry out the in-depth study proposed by it.
8. Phase I of the study consists of an inventory of work on institutional budgets outside the UN system, in the private sector, some large NGOs, some bilateral organizations, and development banks. The development of methodology for phases II and III of the project will be guided by the findings of this inventory. Phase II will look at the UN system itself, identifying what has been done, and the potential that exists for reflecting gender equality in budgets. The third phase will look indepth at a selected number of UN entities, making proposals for further steps. An interim report will be presented to the Committee.

#### Documentation

- \* Report of the task manager OSAGI/DAW on budget codes and financial monitoring systems (IACWGE/V/5)

#### **(c) Women in development /Gender focal point study**

9. At its third session, the Committee decided to conduct a review of the women-in-development/gender focal point function in the UN system. UNFPA was designated as task manager for this review. At its fourth session, the Committee endorsed the questionnaires for the conduct of the survey, and agreed on a process and time frame for conducting the survey and analysing its results. It also agreed to seek the support of ACC for a presentation and discussion of the results of the management survey in a panel of senior managers during the special session (see ACC/1999/3, paras. 17 to 20).
10. The Committee will have before it the final report of the task manager on the results of the study. The Committee will be asked to consider and adopt recommendations resulting from the study concerning the role and functions of gender focal points. It will also be invited to decide on the format for the publication of the study, and on modalities for its wide distribution. The Committee should also discuss and agree on the procedure, timing and composition of the panel of senior managers during the special session on management commitment to gender mainstreaming.

#### Documentation

- \* Report of the task manager UNFPA on the WID/gender focal point study (IACWGE/V/6)

#### **(d) Quantitative and qualitative indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress in implementing the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming**

11. Under this sub-item, the Committee will receive a briefing by a representative of the Statistics Division on the status of preparations of a new edition of The World's Women in 2000.

#### **(e) Methodologies for gender impact analysis**

12. At its fourth session, the Committee requested that the World Bank serve as task manager for this sub-item (see ACC/1999/3, paras 21 - 23). It was agreed that existing practices and methods for gender impact analysis applied by Committee members would be collected via e-mail, to be followed by an electronic discussion group (on the condition that sufficient responses were received). The Committee will have before it the report of the task manager.

#### Documentation

- \* Report of the task manager on methodologies for gender impact analysis (IACWGE/V/7)

#### **(f) WomenWatch**

13. It will be recalled that WomenWatch was endorsed by the Committee as an inter-agency activity at the Committee's third session. The Committee will be briefed by the Director of the DAW, Chair of the WomenWatch Committee, on the activities and administration of the site. An update will be provided on the present membership of the WomenWatch Committee, which sets policy for the site.

#### **(g) Compilation of data base of gender training materials**

14. At its third session, the Committee welcomed the initiative of several UN entities to compile a database/inventory of all gender training materials and instruments in use in the UN system. It designated UNICEF and INSTRAW as task managers. At its fourth session (see ACC/1999/3, para. 24), it decided to entrust UNICEF with the convening of a working group to discuss all open issues, including the question of a project manager, the extent and cost of the project, fund-raising strategies and the project's location.
15. Since the fourth session, UNICEF prepared an update of the revised project document. The new time frame established the project's completion by the end of April 2000. The project envisages the creation of both a review of gender training materials available in the UN system and the creation of a data base on Womenwatch. In implementing this task, UNICEF acknowledges INSTRAW's new method of work, GAINS, and the intention to establish a link to it.
16. The Committee, in addition to discussing individually the good practices collection, and the compilation of gender training materials, may wish to consider the overall issue of electronic data bases and linkages. This would also provide an opportunity to review INSTRAW's new working method, GAINS, and its linkages with the Committee's ongoing efforts.

#### Documentation

- \* Report by the task manager UNICEF on the status of the compilation of the data base (IACWGE/V/8)

#### **(h) System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women**

17. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1999/16, requested that the next SWMTP be submitted in two phases. A first phase would consist of an assessment of the implementation of the SWMTP 1996-2001, and would be submitted to the CSW at its 44th session (E/CN.6/2000/3). The second phase would consist of the new SWMTP for 2002-2005. That plan would be submitted to the CSW at its 45th session in 2001, and should reflect the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly in June 2000.

18. The Committee is requested to take note of this schedule. It is recommended that the Committee consider which purpose the new plan could most usefully serve. To that end, the Committee should develop proposals which the Chair could discuss with delegations, as appropriate. The Committee should also agree that, following the conclusion of the special session in June and the session of the Economic and Social Council, a working group, to be chaired by DAW, would discuss the overall substantive orientation of the new plan for 2002-2005 in light of intergovernmental guidance provided by these two bodies. The working group would also be entrusted with developing the time frame and procedure for the preparation of the new plan.

**Item 4: Field-level implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming: review of CCAs and UNDAF from a gender perspective**

19. At its fourth session (ACC/1999/3, paras. 34 - 51), the Committee held a workshop with resident coordinators and agency field representatives on the inclusion of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming in common country assessments and UNDAFs. The Committee adopted a series of conclusions and recommendations, which were subsequently submitted by its Chairperson to CCPOQ as input into that Committee's ongoing work on operational activities. The Committee further invited the undg Sub-Group on Gender to bring them to the attention of undg.

20. The Committee decided to include a regular item on its agenda to review the extent to which implementation of the Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming are reflected in common country assessments and UNDAFs. That assessment was to be based on feedback from the field and analysis provided by the United Nations Development Group (undg) Sub-Group on Gender.

Documentation

\* Report by the Chairperson of the undg Sub-Group on Gender (IACWGE/V/9)

**Item 5: Inter-action with ACC machinery:  
Cooperation with CCAQ on the status of women in the Secretariats**

21. At its fourth session, the Committee requested that the focal point on the status of women in the Secretariat brief the Committee on a regular basis on questions of gender balance, and on strategies for achieving gender balance at all levels and in all areas.



22. The Committee will also be briefed by the Chairperson (or Vice-Chairperson) of the CCAQ (PER).

**Item 6: Preparation for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”, 5 to 9 June 2000.**

23. Under this item, the Committee will receive briefings on the substantive and logistical (DAW), as well as procedural (Secretary of the CSW and of the PrepCom) aspects of the preparations for the special session, with a particular focus on UN system participation. The present status of proposals for UN system side events during the special session will be reviewed with a view to their possible finalization. Updated charts of proposed UN system activities will be made available. Public information activities (DPI) will also be discussed. Representatives of the five regional commissions will provide short briefings on the regional meetings that have taken place.

**Item 7: Other matters**

24. Under this item, the Committee will be briefed on reporting obligations over the next several months to intergovernmental bodies that will require UN system contributions.
25. A briefing will also be provided on the workshop on “Women’s empowerment in the framework of human security”, 6-7 December 1999. The workshop, which was hosted by ESCAP, was the third workshop of members of the Inter-agency Committee and members of the OECD/DAC Working Party on Gender Equality.
26. The Chairperson of the OECD/DAC Working Party on Gender Equality has informed the Chairperson of the IACWGE of her group’s interest in collaborating with the Committee in another joint workshop, to focus on questions of *gender equality and programming in governance*. The Working Party suggests a three-day meeting in September or October 2000. In keeping with objectives of previous workshops, the proposed workshop would aim at (1) advancing policy discussions, and (2) bringing the experiences, good practices and challenges of bilateral and multilateral organizations to light. The letter of the Chairperson of the OECD/DAC Working Party, including the rationale for the proposed topic, and possible themes, will be made available to Committee.
27. The Committee will be invited to consider this proposal and to take decisions relating to the topic, timing, location and task manager for such a workshop.

**Item 8: Adoption of the report, including dates and provisional agenda for the sixth session.**

28. The Committee will adopt its report, including recommendations addressed to the ACC, its own decisions, and procedures for preparing the sixth session of the Committee. Taking into considerations the proposed dates for the forty-fifth session of the CSW, the Committee may decide to hold its sixth session from 28 February to 2 March 2001.

29. In preparing its provisional agenda for its sixth session, attention is drawn to the fact that several of the Committee's ongoing tasks will be concluded at the fifth session (including the gender focal point study, the study on budget codes, and - in part- the good practices compilation). Consequently, the Committee may wish to decide on any new tasks it would wish to undertake, and on inter-sessional preparations by task managers or working groups.

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**Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality  
Fifth Session, 23-25 February 2000**

**Opening remarks by  
Angela E.V. King  
Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women  
Chairperson of the Committee**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all once again to this, the fifth session of the ACC Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality. My particular welcome goes to those colleagues who have come to New York from other duty stations, as well as to new colleagues who are participating in the Committee's work for the first time. I would like to recognize Ms. Valery Detemmerman, Senior Scientific Officer of the World Meteorological Organization, as well as Ms. Carolyn McAskie, Head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. We welcome you very warmly. I would also like to introduce Carolyn Hannan whom many of you already know. Carolyn joined my Office in September as Principal Officer for Gender Mainstreaming.

Once again, I expect us to have a very productive meeting. We have a tight schedule requiring focus and the cooperation and hard work of all of us over these three days to make substantial progress on the various items that are on our agenda. My thanks and appreciation go especially to our inter-sessional task managers and working groups for the efforts and preparations that you have undertaken since our fourth session. Your work is essential in ensuring that we have a productive session, and that the Committee can indeed fulfill its mandate of being a catalyst for implementation of the Platform for Action including gender mainstreaming.

I would also like to acknowledge with appreciation the system's active involvement in the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> century", and the many reports, studies, and background papers that you will make available to Governments and other participants in this process. Your willingness to work with the Division for the Advancement of Women and my Office, including through the Steering Committee for the special session that I set up late last year, has been very helpful and encouraging to us. Together, I am sure we will be able to cope with all the challenges ahead of us in the next three weeks, and in the weeks and months leading up to the June session.

We have several tasks ahead of us at this session. Our first task will be to review the status of preparations for the special session, including the specific contributions of entities of the UN system in the form of side events, panel discussions and other activities.

Based on the Committee's work of the last two to three years, I expect us to finalize several very concrete contributions that we, as a Committee, will make to this process. While the timing of these outputs coincides with the special session and thus gives them particular visibility and impact, they will be useful tools well beyond the special session. I am referring in particular to the compilation of good practices, the gender focal point study, the study of gender mainstreaming in programme budgets in the United Nations system, and the data base of gender training materials. We will also discuss how we will continue the work on gender impact analysis. The Committee, and especially its task managers, have worked diligently to craft these tools and resources which we believe will not only be indicative of what the United Nations system is doing. They will also serve as models and inspiration for further, and better work ahead. I trust that the Committee's panel discussions and presentations at the special session will allow us to showcase some of our work.

I am also very pleased with the final ACC statement to be submitted to the special session. The consideration of the Committee's draft by the Organizational Committee, as well as the discussion in ACC late last year were most fruitful, and reflected the commitment of the system's senior management to gender equality.

The statement will be made available to the PrepCom next week. In addition, I would like to invite the Committee to give consideration to preparing a joint statement on the document that will result from the special session, and which will be the subject of negotiations of the PrepCom starting in the week of 6 March. The Chairperson's original draft (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.1) has been distributed. A revised text is expected to become available within the next few days. Some of you will recall that this Committee's predecessor prepared a joint statement on the then draft Platform for Action in 1995, and presented it orally to the Commission on the Status of Women. Many delegations considered the Committee's comments to be very helpful in the negotiations. It might therefore be useful to present some specific proposals for further actions that are particularly pertinent from the system's perspective.

Let me turn to a second issue: Last year, the Committee held a one-day workshop with resident coordinators and agency field representatives on field-level implementation of the Platform and gender mainstreaming. That workshop was an effort to create a better interaction with our colleagues in the field, and to increase the Committee's capacity to support their work more effectively. I believe that improvement and strengthening of capacity for both implementation of the Platform and for gender mainstreaming at the field level remains one of the major challenges for the Committee. We need to consider how best we can support our own agency colleagues in the field, as well as increase cooperation among them and the Committee. This remains of pivotal importance at a time when the system continues to search for better ways to serve its clients in intergovernmental processes and at the field level. It is also a time when we see growing attention to the issues we have pushed since the Fourth World Conference on Women in intergovernmental mandates and in UN system policies alike. We have also seen concerted efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into policies and programmes.

Notwithstanding such progress, I believe it is the responsibility of this Committee to

remain vigilant that any explicit commitment to the gender mainstreaming strategy is supported by adequate resources, in human, financial and institutional terms, for its implementation. Furthermore, commitment to gender mainstreaming and use of gender mainstreaming language which this Committee must continue to advocate, must not imply an erosion of targeted, women-specific programmes and policies. The gender mainstreaming strategy cannot stand alone. Women-specific programmes remain as critical as ever. It would be my hope that the Committee will have an opportunity to discuss recent developments throughout the system with regard to this dual-track strategy, both during our general discussion later this morning, as well as in connection with the gender focal point study. We should in particular discuss how ongoing institutional reforms and financial constraints at Headquarters and in the field are affecting the effectiveness, or even the existence, of gender units and gender focal points, and their support for targeted and for mainstreaming work on gender equality.

Another task we have to tackle at this session is to decide how to move some of our activities from the very labour intensive stage of conceptualization and preparation to a stage which I would like to call the "maintenance phase". Take the example of the good practices collection: Once the collection will have been launched in June, the Committee will need to have decided on the next steps in this regard. How will the collection be maintained? How will we add to it? Who will take on this task, and what type of resources will be required? Similar considerations apply to the gender budget study. How does the Committee intend to remain involved in this issue once the three phases of the study will have been completed? These are questions we will need to discuss, and take decisions on. I expect that the task managers will take the lead in formulating these questions, and in putting options before the Committee for action.

This brings me to my next point. The task managers have done admirable work, usually within existing resources, and on top of their regular workload. As this Committee takes on new tasks - which remain to be identified - I would strongly urge also those members who, for many good reasons have taken on less of our inter-sessional preparations, to form working groups or to consider serving as task managers for specific items. I was happy to hear that last summer, the Geneva-based colleagues decided to meet in an informal group, with Ms. Asha Williams from WHO as coordinator. I would be delighted if this group, and perhaps groups in other duty stations, could take on such responsibilities to help further the Committee's mandate and terms of reference. In addition, I encourage us to make much greater use of online conferencing to involve more members from different duty stations in such inter-sessional work.

I must, once again, bring up the question of resources for the work of the Committee. The work we have done over the last several years stands on its own. Very few, if any, of the members reflect inter-agency work in their budgets. I would therefore like to suggest that we discuss how specific tasks that are taken on by working groups and task managers could be reflected in our agencies' budgets. Rather than to seek separate budget allocations for the work of the Committee per se, we could consider including small allocations, tied to specific activities, within our individual programme budgets. I would be grateful for members' views on this matter. We might also consider seeking ACC's guidance thereon.

It remains in the Committee's interest to maintain, and develop new links of information exchange and cooperation with other parts of the ACC machinery. We have had exchanges with the Chairpersons of CCPOQ and IACSD in the past, which I believe were very useful. In the same spirit I have approached the Chairperson of the CCAQ (Personnel) to meet with the Committee this year for a briefing and exchange of information. While the Chair himself is not able to come from his duty station in Vienna, he has designated the New York-based Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Jan Beagle to meet with us. We hope that this meeting will take place on Friday.

Before concluding, I would like to thank those of you who have generously extended their hospitality to the Committee, or to its Chair or members, over the past year. First, my thanks go to Thelma Kay and ESCAP for hosting the third workshop of this Committee and the OECD DAC Working Party on Gender Equality in December. We will hear more about the meeting later in our session. I personally had the privilege to participate in the regional meetings at ECA and ESCWA, and members of my Office or of the Division for the Advancement of Women attended the ESCAP, ECE and ECLAC regional meetings. I look forward to the reports from the regional commissions later this morning. I also had excellent meetings, including informal inter-agency meetings, at duty stations in Geneva, Rome and Vienna at other times in the course of last year, and would like to thank all those who made these missions very productive and useful.

And lastly, I would like to pay tribute to Kristen Timothy, the Secretary of the Committee since its inception, who left the Organization last July. Her work was instrumental in setting a steady course for the Committee. I would like to assure you that a new Secretary of the Committee will be appointed in due course. In the meantime, I am happy to inform you that Ms. Christina Brautigam, our very efficient Assistant Secretary, will be Acting Secretary, assisted by Ms. Edith Castellares of the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Colleagues,

We have worked well together over this past year in a collegial, cooperative and united approach to promote gender equality issues. As the preparations of the Beijing Special Session reach their peak, I count on your full support so that we may meet the challenges ahead.

I wish us all a good and productive meeting.

Thank you.

**Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality**  
**Fifth Session**  
**New York, 23-25 February 2000**

**List of Participants**

Ms. Angela E.V. KING  
Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women  
Chairperson, ACC Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality  
2 UN Plaza, DC2-1220  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963-5086/0843  
Fax: (212) 963-3463  
E-mail: king@un.org

Ms. Carolyn HANNAN  
Principal Officer-Gender Mainstreaming  
Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI)  
2 UN Plaza, DC2-1216  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: 212 963 3104  
Fax: 212 963 3463  
E-mail: hannan@un.org

Ms. Zohreh TABATABAI  
Focal Point for Women in the Secretariat  
Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI)  
Rm. S-2535A  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: (212) 963-6828  
Fax: (212) 963-9545  
E-Mail: tabatabai@un.org

Ms. Mahnoush H. ARSANJANI  
Senior Legal Officer  
Codification Division  
Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)  
Rm. S-3460G  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: (212) 963-5331  
Fax: (212) 963-1963  
E-Mail: arsanjani@un.org

Ms. Mary Eliza KIMBALL  
Senior Political Affairs Officer  
Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)  
Rm. S-3727 I  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: (212) 963-5721  
Fax: (212) 963-9222  
E-Mail: kimball@un.org

Besida TONWE  
Humanitarian Affairs Officer  
Policy, Advocacy and Information Division  
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
1 UN Plaza, DC 1 - 1372  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963-1732  
Fax: (212) 963-1040  
Email:



**Ms. Yakin ERTÜRK**  
Director  
Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)  
2 UN Plaza, DC2-1250  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963-9750  
Fax: (212) 963-3463  
E-Mail: erturk@un.org

**Ms. Fatiha SEROUR**  
Chief, Gender Advisory Services Unit  
Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)  
2 UN Plaza, DC2-2020  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963 8379  
Fax: (212) 963 3463  
E-mail: serour@un.org

**Ms. Christina BRAUTIGAM**  
Social Affairs Officer  
Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)  
2 UN Plaza, DC2-1206  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963 0535  
Fax: (212) 963 3463  
E-mail: brautigamc@un.org

**Ms. Edith CASTELLARES**  
Programme Officer  
Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
1 UN Plaza, DC1-1434  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963 4672  
Fax: (212) 963 7454  
E-mail: castellares@un.org

Ms. Mary Beth WEINBERGER  
Chief, Population and Development Section  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)  
2 UN Plaza, DC2-2042  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: (212) 963-4531  
Fax: (212) 963-2147  
E-Mail: [weinberger@un.org](mailto:weinberger@un.org)

Ms. Joann VANEK  
Chief, Social and Housing Statistics Section  
DESA  
2 UN Plaza, DC2-1584  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963-4939  
Fax: (212) 963-1940  
E-Mail: [vanek@un.org](mailto:vanek@un.org)

Madeleine REES  
Head of Office, Bosnia  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Sarajevo  
Bosnia  
Tel: 0038 771 496402  
Fax: 0038 771 496438  
E-mail: [Reesm@un.org](mailto:Reesm@un.org)

Elsa STAMATOPOULOU  
Deputy Director  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Rm. S-2914  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963 2775  
Fax: (212) 963 4097  
Email: [stamatopoulou@un.org](mailto:stamatopoulou@un.org)

Ms. Josephine OUEDRAOGO  
Chief, African Centre for Women  
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)  
PO Box 3001  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Tel: (251-1) 51 12 63 (direct)  
Fax: (251-1) 51 4416  
E-Mail: ouedraogoj@un.org

Mr. Patrice ROBINEAU  
Senior Adviser to the Executive Secretary  
Office of the Executive Secretary  
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)  
Room 354  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel: (4122) 907-4858  
Fax: (4122) 907-0036  
E-Mail: patrice.robineau@unece.org

Ms. Thelma KAY  
Chief, Women in Development Section  
Social Development Division  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)  
United Nations Building  
Rajdamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
Tel: (66-2) 288-1989  
Fax: (66-2) 288-1018  
E-Mail: kay.unescap@un.org  
wid.unescap@un.org

Ms. Sonia MONTANO  
Chief, Women and Development Unit  
Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC)  
Edificio Naciones Unidas  
Avenida Dag Hammarskjöld s/n  
Vitacura  
Santiago, Chile  
Tel: (56 2) 210 2100  
Fax: (56 2) 208 1553  
E-mail: smontano@eclac.cl

Ms. Fatima Sbaity KASSEM  
Chief, Women and Development Unit  
Social Development Division  
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)  
PO Box 11-8575  
Riad El-Solh Square  
Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: (961-1) 981 301  
Fax: (961-1) 981 510, or 981 511, or 981 512  
E-Mail: fkassem@escwa.org.lb  
Kassem@un.org

Ms. Margaret McCaffery  
Economic Affairs Officer  
Regional Commissions New York Office  
Rm. S-3127  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: (212) 963-5566  
Fax: (212) 963-1500  
E-Mail: mccaffery@un.org

**Ms. Sree GURURAJA**  
Senior Adviser, Gender and Development  
Gender and Programme Partnership Section  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
Three UN Plaza, (TA-2484)  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: (212) 824-6671  
Fax: (212) 824-6486  
E-Mail: [sgururaja@unicef.org](mailto:sgururaja@unicef.org)

**Ms. Ulla BISGAARD**  
Assistant Programme Officer  
UNICEF  
Three UN Plaza  
Tel: (212) 824 6673  
E-mail: [ugbisgaard@unicef.org](mailto:ugbisgaard@unicef.org)

**Ms. Gloria Veronica KOCH**  
Chief, Competitiveness and Technological Capacity Building Section  
Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development  
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Tel: (41-22) 917 5690  
Fax: (41-22) 917 0122  
E-mail: [gloria-veronica.koch@unctad.org](mailto:gloria-veronica.koch@unctad.org)

**Ms. Aster ZAOUDE**  
Manager, Gender in Development Programme  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
DC1-2036, One UN Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 906 5082  
Fax: (212) 906 5857  
E-mail: [aster.zaoude@undp.org](mailto:aster.zaoude@undp.org)

Ms. Noeleen HEYZER  
Director  
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)  
304 East 45th Street  
Room FF-616  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: (212) 906-6435  
Fax: (212) 906-6705  
E-Mail:

Ms. Joanne SANDLER  
Chief, OLRD  
UNIFEM  
304 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street  
Room FF-618  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 906 6643  
Fax: (212) 906 6705  
E-mail: joanne.sandler@undp.org

Ms. Maaike JANSEN  
Associate Programme Officer  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
2 UN Plaza, DC2-803  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963 8151  
Fax: (212) 963 7341  
E-Mail: jansen@un.org

Ms. Wariara MBUGUA  
Manager, Gender Theme Group  
Technical Branch, Technical and Policy Division  
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)  
220 East 42nd Street  
17th Floor  
New York, NY 10017, USA

Tel: (212) 297-5141  
Fax: (212) 297-5145  
E-Mail: mbugua@unfpa.org

Ms. Sylvie Alpert BRYANT  
Chief, New York Office  
United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)  
1 UN Plaza, DC1-0613  
New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 963 5634  
Fax: (212) 963 4185  
E-mail: bryant@un.org

Ms. Elina SANA  
Senior Programme Adviser (Socio-economic Development & Gender)  
World Food Programme (WFP)  
Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68-70  
00148 Rome, Italy  
Tel: (39-06) 6513 2221  
Fax: (39-06) 6513 2871/2854  
E-Mail: elina.sana@wfp.org

Ms. Diana LEE-SMITH  
Coordinator, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements  
UNCHS (Habitat) Gender Unit  
M 212  
P.O. Box 30030  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: (254-2) 623-987  
Fax: (254-2) 624-250  
E-Mail: diana.leesmith@unchs.org

Ms. Tsegereda ASSEBE  
Snr. Liaison Assistant  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
Liaison Office  
DC1-2610, One UN Plaza  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
Tel: (212) 963-4215  
Fax: (212) 963-0074, or 963-3258  
E-Mail: assebe@unhcr.ch

Ms. Robyn GROVES  
Snr. External Relations Officer  
UNHCR Liaison Office  
DC1-2610  
Tel: (212) 963 6904  
Fax: (212) 963 0074  
E-mail: groves@unhcr.ch

Mr. Jacques FOMERAND  
Director  
United Nations University (UNU)  
2 UN Plaza  
Tel: (212) 963 6345  
Fax: (212) 371 9454  
Email: unuona@igc.apc.org

Ms. Tatiana SIKOSKA  
International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women  
(INSTRAW)  
Cesar Nicolas Penson 102-A  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
Tel: (809) 685-2111  
Fax: (809) 685-2117  
E-mail: tsikoska@onu.org.do



Ms. Jane Youyun ZHANG  
Special Adviser on Women Workers' Questions  
International Labour Organization (ILO)  
4, route des Morillons  
CH-1211 Geneve 22, Switzerland  
Tel: (41-22) 799-6930  
Fax: (41-22) 799-6388  
E-mail: zhangy@ilo.org

Ms. Sissel EKAAS  
Director, Women and Population Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
Room B-565  
00100 Rome, Italy  
Tel: (39-06) 570-53351  
Fax: (39-06) 570-52004  
Email: sissel.ekaas@fao.org

Ms. Breda PAVLIC  
Director, Unit for the Status of Women and Gender Equality  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
7, Place de Fontenoy  
75007 Paris, France  
Tel: (33-1) 4568-1405  
Fax: (33-1) 4568-5558  
Email: b.pavlic@unesco.org

Ms. Asha Singh WILLIAMS  
External Relations Officer  
World Health Organization (WHO)  
Room 7052, 20 Avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland  
Tel: (41-22) 791-3980  
Fax: (41-22) 791-4843  
E-Mail: williamsa@who.int

Ms. Monica S. FONG  
Human Development Specialist  
World Bank  
1818 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20433, USA  
Tel: (202) 473-6759  
Fax: (202) 522-3235  
E-mail: mfong@worldbank.org

Ms. Leena LAHTI  
Special Advisor on Diversity  
International Monetary Fund (IMF)  
700 19<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (Rm IS 8-130)  
Washington DC 20431  
Tel: (202) 623 8206  
Fax: (202) 623 6927  
E-mail: Llahti@imf.org

Ms. Valery DETEMMERMAN  
Senior Scientific Officer  
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
7 bis, avenue de la Paix  
Case postale 2300  
CH - 1211 Geneva 2  
Switzerland  
Tel: (41-22) 730 8242  
Fax: (41-22) 733 8036  
E-Mail: detemmerman\_v@gateway.wmo.ch

Ms. Beverly YOUNG  
Head, Human Resources Planning & Control Unit  
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
Wagramerstrasse 5  
P.O.Box 100

A-1400 Vienna, AUSTRIA  
Tel: (43-1) 2600-21039  
Fax: (43-1) 2600-29670  
E-mail: B.Young@iaea.org

Ms. Aurorita MENDOZA  
Health Promotion and Gender Adviser  
Department of Policy, Strategy and Research  
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)  
20, avenue Appia  
CH-1211 Geneva 27  
Tel: (41 22) 791-4508  
Fax: (41 22) 791-4741  
Email: mendozaa@unaids.org

Ms. Helen LOM  
Director Adviser  
Office of the Deputy Director General  
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
CH - 1211 Geneva 20  
Tel: (41 22) 338-9124  
Fax: (41 22) 733-5371  
Email: helen.lom@wipo.int

Ms. Hanne T. LAUGESSEN  
Focal Point for Gender Issues  
Head, Conferences Department  
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
Place des Nations  
1211 Geneva 20  
Tel: (41 22) 730-5691/12  
Fax: (41 22) 730-6422  
Email: hanne.laugesen@itu.int