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African Centre for Gender and Development

*Meeting of the Bureau of the Committee on Women and
Development*

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**Note on Modalities for Renewal of
Membership of the Committee on Women
And Development**

Note on Modalities for Renewal of Membership of the Committee on Women and Development

A. Introduction

The current modalities for renewal of membership of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD) and its Bureau were discussed and approved in the CWD meeting of June 1999 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and the Special Session in November 1999. The current members who have served since November 1999 were selected according to these modalities. These modalities were adopted to reflect the new orientation of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to serve its constituency better and also the approach to equality and the advancement of women that entails the involvement of a cross-section of actors as we seek to integrate the gender dimension in all aspects of development.

B. Membership and modalities for renewal

The membership of the Committee is in 3 categories: the Member States, the Non Government Organizations and Resource Persons. Each category will be discussed separately.

1. **The Member States:** According to the current rules, a total of 19 member States are selected by alphabetical order and per subregion to constitute CWD every two years. Representation is by country rather than by individual. The language balance is also an important consideration.

The 19 member States are distributed along the 5 subregions as indicated in the Table below. Every 2 years, 2/3s of the membership is renewed while 1/3 is retained **through elections** to preserve continuity.

Table 1: Distribution of membership of CWD by subregion

Subregions	Number of Member countries	Number of countries retained for second mandate
North Africa	3	1
West Africa	5	2
Central Africa	3	1
Eastern Africa	4	1
Southern Africa	4	1

2. Women's Non-Government Organizations

The women's non-governmental organizations are selected at the national, subregional and regional levels. The requirements include demonstrated track record of stability, good practice and sustainability as evidenced by:

- Confirmation that they are representatives of women
- At least 5 years of stable existence
- A stable financial base as portrayed by the annual reports
- Demonstration of concrete results achieved through their direct intervention

The **distinct categories and numbers** of the women's NGOs eligible for CWD membership at the different levels are stipulated below:

At the **national level** :

- Women's organizations/associations that are operating in one of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. There should be a balance between the urban women associations and the grassroots rural women organizations. Each organization/association should have a membership of at least 5000 women.
- A total of 5 organizations/associations shall be selected, each representing one of the 5 subregions

At the **subregional level**:

- Individual and/or women group membership organizations that draw membership from the entire subregion
- A total of 5 women's organizations shall be selected each per subregion

At the **regional level**:

- Membership women's organizations open to individuals and/or representatives of women's groups from all over the continent
- A total of 3 women's organizations shall be selected

3. Service/specialized organizations

These organizations which are not women's organizations, will be selected on the basis of the following characteristics:

- Organizations/institutions that provide services to women as individuals and/or groups e.g. training, counseling, financing etc
- Research institutions that specialize in women's issues
- At least 5 years of stable existence
- Achievement of concrete results through their intervention
- Existence of relevant expertise as demonstrated by their products (e.g. publications)
- Institutions/organizations that operate either at the subregional or regional levels
- A total of 5 organizations shall be selected, one per subregion
- Linguistic balance will be taken into consideration.

4. Resource persons

The category of **5 Resource Persons** selected to be **ex-officio** members of CWD is filled by individuals with relevant technical skills and knowledge in any of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. They are therefore expected to provide expertise in the priority areas of focus by the members States and the work of ECA. This includes preparation of technical documents, facilitation of sessions, participation in in-session discussions during the meetings of Experts and servicing CWD meetings upon request. Linguistic and subregional balance are taken into consideration in their selection.

The **modalities for renewal** of membership of the NGOs and Resource Persons is similar to the renewal of the member States. Two-thirds of the membership is changed while 1/3 is retained to serve a second mandate in order to ensure continuity. Operationally, ECA is responsible for selecting NGOs and Resource Persons that meet the above criteria and submitting it to the CWD Bureau for approval. For the moment, however, the list that was constituted to serve in the Committee during the periods 1999-2002 has not yet been renewed. This is due to the fact that comprehensive **modalities for their identification** have not yet been finalized. On a separate Note, ECA has proposed these modalities that will be discussed at this meeting under a different agenda item. The finalized modalities will then be used to renew the current list and submit the proposals to the Bureau by April 2003 for final approval.

5. The Bureau of CWD

Composition

The Bureau is comprised of 5 Member States out of the 19 countries selected as members. Each represents one of the 5 subregions of Africa. The positions of the members include:

1. The Chairperson
2. The First Vice-Chairperson
3. The Second Vice-Chairperson
4. First Rapporteur
5. Second Rapporteur

Additional members of the Bureau include the Chairperson of the Sixth African Regional Conference on Women who is an ex-officio until she is replaced at the next regional conference. The country that is chairing the Summit of the African Union also sits in the Bureau in order to create the necessary link between the Committee and the regional institution.

Modalities for election

Once the renewal of members of CWD is completed, the heads of delegation meet to elect the members of the Bureau. Attempts are made to ensure that to the extent possible, the leadership of the Bureau is rotated in the subregions.

C. The Annexes

A number of Annexes are attached to facilitate the renewal process. **Annex I** consists of a list of the 53 African States by subregion as partitioned by ECA. **Annex II (a)** portrays the current membership of CWD (1999-2002) by subregion. **Annex II (b)** shows the list of the new countries to serve in CWD during the period 2002-2004. They are selected by alphabetical order. It also shows the number of countries that should be elected to continue serving in the Committee for a second mandate. **Annex III** shows the countries that have served in the Bureau in the last 4 years (1997-2002).

Annex I

Distribution of Countries by Subregion in Africa

Southern Africa	Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands	Central Africa	West Africa	North Africa
Angola Botswana Lesotho Mauritius Madagascar Malawi Mozambique Namibia South Africa Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe	Burundi Comores Congo(DRC) Djibouti Eritrea Ethiopia Kenya Rwanda Seychelles Somalia Tanzania Uganda	Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Sao Tome and Principe Tchad	Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Cote D'Ivoire Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea Bissau Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo	Algeria Egypt Lybia Morocco Mauritania Soudan Tunisia

Annex II (a)

Current Members of the Committee on Women and Development by Subregion (1999-2002)

Southern Africa	Eastern Africa	Central Africa	West Africa	North Africa
Angola Botswana Swaziland Zimbabwe Zambia (former Chair of African Union)	Comoros Djibouti Seychelles Tanzania	Cameroon Chad Congo (6 th Reg. Conference Chair) Gabon	Benin Burkina Faso Cote d'Ivoire Nigeria Togo	Egypt Morocco Sudan

Annex II (b)

List of the new CWD members by subregions (2002-2004)

Southern Africa	Eastern Africa	Central Africa	West Africa	North Africa
Lesotho Mauritius Madagascar South Africa(as Chair of AU) <u>One current member to be elected to continue</u>	Burundi Congo (DRC) Eritrea <u>One current member to be elected to continue</u>	Central African Republic Equatorial Guinea Congo(as Chair of 6 th Regional Conference) <u>One current member to be elected to continue</u>	Cape Verde Gambia Ghana <u>Two current members to be elected to continue</u>	Algeria Lybia <u>One current member to be elected to continue</u>

Annex III

Membership of the Bureau in the last 4 years

1997-1999

Chairperson	Tunisia
First Vice-Chairperson	Rwanda
Second Vice- Chairperson	Ethiopia
First Rapporteur	Cote d'Ivoire
Second Rapporteur	Cameroon

1999-2002

Chairperson	Zimbabwe
First Vice-Chairperson	Cameroon
Second Vice-Chairperson	Nigeria
First Rapporteur	Morocco
Second Rapporteur	Tanzania