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**Framework for evaluation of the implementation of
the Beijing Platform for Action 2003-2004**

III. Areas of the Beijing Platform for Action to be evaluated

Objectives and scope

The principal objective of the evaluation exercise is to assess systematically and objectively the **relevance, implications and the sustainability** of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the different critical areas of concern.

As suggested above, all the 12 critical areas of concern should be evaluated in terms of the extent to which they have been implemented and the results attained. The results can be at the level of direct outputs in the short run or outcomes in the medium term depending on how long the implementation has been going on. Where observable change has occurred in the status of women as a result of the implementation of the Platform for Action, it should also be brought out in the evaluation report.

Additionally, the findings and recommendations of the Beijing + 5 mid-decade review at the regional and global levels should be taken into consideration in the scope of evaluation to the extent possible. Emerging issues should therefore be a subject of focus as much as the 12 critical areas of concern.

Annex 1 suggests evaluation questions that should guide the process while *Annex 2* suggests how the evaluation report should be organized.

Further issues of focus in the evaluation

The issues cited in the critical areas of concern below include emerging issues that were included in the recommendations of the *Outcome Document* of the Beijing + 5 General Assembly Special Session in June 2000 and the African Plan of Action 2000-2004 to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in 1999. In evaluating progress made in the implementation of the Platform, these issues should be addressed as well.

1. **Women and poverty:** Assess the extent to which macro-economic and social policies and programmes including those associated with structural adjustment and external debt are formulated, reviewed and implemented from a gender perspective, recognizing the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women in Africa and seeking development-oriented and durable solutions with short and long-term goals. Progress made towards addressing women's double burden of paid and unpaid work including accounting for women's time use in national accounts should be assessed.
2. **Education and training of women:** Assess progress made towards girls and women's right to equal access to education, vocational training science and technology and completion of basic education especially those living in rural areas; progress towards the closure of gender gap in primary and secondary education which should be eliminated by 2005; access to free and compulsory universal education which should be achieved by 2015; progress towards achievement of 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy especially women by 2015 Progress made towards developing a gender-sensitive curricula at all levels should be assessed
3. **Women and health:** Assess progress towards women's right to the enjoyment of the highest

attainable standard of physical and mental well-being throughout their life cycle. Assess progress made towards universal access to gender sensitive health care services including sexual and reproductive health services, which should be achieved by 2015 especially in the face of the HIV/AIDS. Assess progress made towards achieving the benchmarks to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, to increase the proportion of births assisted by skilled attendants, to provide safe and effective family planning and contraceptive methods and to reduce young people's risk of HIV/AIDS. Evaluate progress made towards the design and implementation of programmes to encourage and enable men to adopt safe and responsible sexual reproductive behaviour and to effectively use methods to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS

4. **Violence against women:** Assess the extent to which gender-based violence including battering, domestic violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, forced prostitution and sexual harassment, cultural prejudice, armed conflict, ethnic cleansing etc are being combated and eliminated. Assess the extent to which policies and programmes address the imbalances between women and men in household responsibilities, the care of children, the sick and the elderly, and also seek to reconcile work responsibilities and family responsibilities.
5. **Women and armed conflict:** the extent to which gender-based violence is being addressed in situations of armed conflicts, through appropriate policies and programmes should be assessed.
6. **Women and the economy:** Assess progress made towards mainstreaming a gender perspective into: the key macro-economic and social development policies and national development programmes; design, development, adoption and execution of all budgetary processes, in order to promote equitable budget allocations to support gender equality and development programmes that enhance women's empowerment, develop the necessary analytical and methodological tools and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.
7. **Women in power and decision-making:** Assess achievements with regard to equal sharing of decision-making in political structures including peace building as well as in the public and private sectors
8. **Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women:** Evaluate the level of political commitment to the gender national machinery in terms of its status and the human and financial resources allocated in order to enable it to play its role in facilitating the development, adoption and monitoring of gender policies, and advocating capacity building for gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women etc.
9. **Human rights of women:** Evaluate progress made towards the creation of non-discriminatory, gender-sensitive legal environment through review of legislation in order to remove discriminatory provisions especially in such issues as access to land, access to and control of economic resources, inheritance rights etc. which should be achieved by 2005. Assess success of policies, programmes and actions taken to ensure that maternity, motherhood; parenting and the role of women in procreation are not used as a basis for discrimination nor to restrict the full participation of women in society.

10. **Women in the media:** to be assessed as stipulated in the Platform for Action

11. **Women and the environment:** Assess whether women's knowledge and priorities in the conservation and management of natural resources is recognized and integrated. Evaluate whether programmes and infrastructures adopted to respond to disasters and emergency situations that threaten the environment, livelihood security and the management of the basic requirements of daily life are gender-sensitive.

12. **The girl-child:** Assess the extent to which the recommendations of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action have been implemented

Other related issues that should be evaluated

- **Women and girls with disability:** Government policies and programmes should be evaluated to determine the extent to which they take into account the needs of disabled women and girls, particularly with regard to access to education at all levels, to health care and services and employment opportunities, protection and promotion of their human rights and in eliminating inequalities between women and men with disabilities and their integration into the mainstream of development.
- **Research-based knowledge and data disaggregated by sex:** Evaluate the extent to which national statistical offices are provided with institutional and financial support in order to collect, compile and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age etc. Assess progress made in developing national capacity to undertake policy-oriented and gender-related research and impact studies through universities, and national research /training institutions in order to facilitate gender-specific knowledge-based policy making.
- Follow-up mechanisms to assess progress: These should be evaluated in different sectors
- **Mechanisms to enhance transparency and accountability:** their existence should be verified as well as their level of functioning
- **Allocation of resources:** The adequacy of allocated resources for the implementation of the Platform for Action and for building the necessary capacity for gender mainstreaming in different sectors should be assessed.

IV. Modalities for evaluation at the national, subregional and regional levels

(a) At the national level

The evaluation process of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action should be carried out between August and December 2003. All data and information should be collected, analyzed and synthesized within that time frame. A national multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral committee, should be set to take charge of the evaluation process and the compilation of the report at the technical level.

Between January and February 2004, a national meeting of stakeholders should be convened by the National Technical Committee to validate the evaluation report. The national evaluation report should be submitted to the ECA Subregional Development Centres by March 2004.

The countries that are participating in the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme of the African Plan of Action will submit 2 reports to the SRDCs. The first report will be the comprehensive synthesized national report on progress made in the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action. The second national report will synthesize the evaluation of progress made in the implementation of the African Plan of Action in the selected areas as stipulated in the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme.

It is expected that the UN agencies and other bilateral and multilateral partners will actively support the evaluation process

(b) At the subregional level

- Reports on the comprehensive national evaluation of the PFA and the evaluation of the African Plan of Action will be submitted to the SRDCs by March 2004
- Between April and June 2004, SRDCs will synthesize the national reports from the various countries and submit them to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for discussion and consensus building on the subregional priority gender issues
- Participants should include representatives from the ministries participating in the M & E Programme, i.e. ministries of finance, planning, agriculture, health, trade and industry and the ministries in charge of gender. RECs should also participate.
- SRDCs will submit the final subregional evaluation reports to ECA/ ACGD by July 2004
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(c) At the regional level

- ACW will synthesize subregional evaluation reports and submit them to the Regional High Level Consultative Meeting in 2004. Participants at the Consultative Meeting should include ministers from the 6 sectors participating in the M & E Programme.
- The RECs, AU, ECA and ADB will evaluate the status of implementation of the African Plan of Action and the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action in their institutions. Their reports will be submitted directly to the Regional High Level Consultative Meeting in November 2004
- The Regional High Level Consultative Meeting will review the regional evaluation reports and will facilitate the distillation of the regional consensus on priority gender issues and the way forward. This will constitute Africa's input into the global Beijing + 10 review conference in 2005.

Annex 1 : Evaluation Questions.

Evaluation Concern (Substantive Focus)	What to Address	Point of reference	Evaluation Questions	Source of Information
Relevance	The continued validity of the objectives of the 12 critical areas of concern	The policies, needs and priorities of the specific country.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do the objectives identified for the three areas address the national needs in relation to the advancement of gender equality? • Are the objectives in line with the government's priorities and policies? • Are the objectives considered useful to the target groups? • Are they complementary to other gender mainstreaming interventions? • Should they be adjusted, eliminated or new ones added in light of new needs, priorities and policies? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government ministries. • Target groups (opinions). • NGO bodies involved in gender mainstreaming efforts.
Performance:				
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of agreed upon objectives. • Effectiveness of institutional arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategic objectives of the critical areas of concern • Implementation of planned actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent have the agreed upon objectives been attained? • Have the programmes contributed to the goal/s of accelerating the implementation of the Platforms for Action? • Have the institutional arrangements in place facilitated the implementation of the Platform? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monitoring reports.
Success:				
Outcomes	Short to medium-term changes resulting from the implementation of the PFA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National leaders values and attitudes; • Organizational systems; • Government and NGOs' policies, plans and programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To what extent has the implementation of the BFA impacted on national leaders' (government ministers, members of parliament, among others) values and attitudes with regard to gender equality? • How and to what extent have government and NGOs' organizational systems been influenced by the implementation of the PFA • To what extent has the PFA implementation contributed to changes in government and NGOs' policies, plans and programmes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government ministries. • NGOs. • Target groups (opinions). • Monitoring reports.
Sustainability	Durability of positive PFA implementation results.	Institutional arrangements in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the institutional arrangements in place facilitate the continued flow of the benefits set in motion by the implementation of the PFA? • Will the institutional arrangements in place facilitate the use or adoption of the PFA implementation results to different contexts or changing environment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government ministries • NGOs • Monitoring reports.

Annex 2: Guidelines for the Preparation of the National Evaluation Report

The objectives of the evaluation report are to:

- **Evaluate** progress made in the implementation of the PFA. **Demonstrate** concrete achievements in meeting strategic objectives for the three areas of focus;
- **Identify** obstacles and constraints in realizing the strategic objectives; and
- **Recommend** strategic actions to be taken in the light of the evaluation findings.

It is suggested that the evaluation report should contain the following:

1. **Executive Summary:**

This section should be one page long, and should give a brief overview of the main components of the report; what was evaluated; major evaluation findings and conclusions; recommendations; and lessons learned.

2. **Introduction:**

This section should briefly discuss:

- The national, regional and global contexts within which the specific country implemented the PFA;
- A brief overview of the National Plan of Action including programmes for further actions according to the *African Plan of Action* and the *Outcome Document* on Beijing + 5
- The country's assessment of the PFA from its vantage point.

3. **Evaluation Findings:**

This section should contain the following:

- Evaluation findings on the progress that has been made in each of the 12 critical areas of concern. These findings should be related as closely as possible, to the strategic objectives, actions laid out in the PFA, *African Plan of Action* and *the Outcome Document* of Beijing + 5 and the monitoring and evaluation tool. Findings from the annual monitoring exercises should be incorporated.
- A discussion of the obstacles and constraints experienced in the implementation of the PFA in each of the areas of focus.
- Any other evaluation findings.
- Lessons learnt about programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation, through the implementation of the PFA

4. **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

This section should contain:

- A summary of the work done, stating how well the goals and objectives were attained;
- Recommendations on the strategic actions to be taken in line with the evaluation findings, so as to realize the full implementation of the PFA and the goal of gender equality.

5. **Appendices:**

The appendices may include information and statistical data collected.