

## ECA Press Release No. 08/2004

### Beijing + 10: with specific reference to North Africa

Addis Ababa, 13 April 2004 (ECA/ACGD) – The Subregional Office for North Africa (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) is organizing a meeting on "The ten-year evaluation of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women", on 14-16 April 2004, in Tangier, Morocco.

This important meeting, bringing together the countries of the subregion, will be inaugurated by Mme. Yasmina Baddou, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Labour, Social Services and National Unity in charge of Family, National Unity and Social Programmes, Kingdom of Morocco.

The importance of this meeting reposes in the fact that, for the first time, high-level representatives of ministries of planning, health, finance, agriculture, trade, industry and the status of women will be participating. Also taking part will be specialized agencies of the United Nations system, subregional intergovernmental organizations, legislators and representatives of civil society.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for participants to consider the report of ECA on the efforts deployed by the countries concerned in the context of the effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and to share their experiences in regard to difficulties encountered in various areas of intervention.

Among the other key items on the agenda, we may note that relating to consideration of the progress made and of challenges encountered in the promotion of gender parity and the empowerment of women in North Africa since Beijing 1995.

The participants will also focus on an evaluation of the achievements realized in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of the Platform, and other initiatives launched during the twenty-third extraordinary session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (2000). The experts will also consider the institutional developments realized in the context of the economic and social advancement of women, as well as endeavouring to highlight the enduring problems and possible remedial measures.

Additionally, the participants will , in the light of a working paper prepared by ECA on the subject, examine the challenges posed by HIVAIDS and poverty in the context of efforts towards improving the status of women in the subregion.

The Tangier meeting will also provide an opportunity for the specialized agencies of the United Nations and NGOs operating in North Africa to give an overview on the impact of their actions within the framework of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and its priority areas.

The outcome of the subregional evaluation meeting will be conveyed to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) to be held in Tangier on 19-21 April 2004, and will subsequently be incorporated into the Regional Evaluation Report which will be considered at the African Regional Conference on Women, in November 2004.

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