



*ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA*

*Report on technical assistance mission  
undertaken in Kigali, Rwanda*

*From 26 November to 10 December 1996*

*prepared by*

*Françoise Wege  
Social Affairs Officer  
African Centre for Women (ACW)*

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In accordance with the Regional and Global Platforms for Action which once again identified Peace as a key factor in the achievement of the goals of advancement of Women, Rwandese women took the initiative to convene a Pan African Conference on Peace, Gender Equality and Development in Kigali, Rwanda.

The main purpose of the convenors of the Conference is to bring to the world's attention lessons learnt from the 1994 genocide in Rwanda in view to avoiding such tragedies in the future and to reflect on the prominent role women can play in building lasting peace and sustainable development on the continent. The conference is being organized under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity and the Economic Commission for Africa with the substantive and financial inputs from the Netherlands Government, UNDP and UNIFEM. Additional financial support is expected from UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR.

In order to ensure adequate preparation of the Conference, the Ministry of Family and Promotion of Women requested ECA to provide necessary advises as regards planning and organizational aspects of the conference. ECA accepted the invitation as it was also an opportunity to ensure the linkage of the conference with other regional peace initiatives. The cost of the mission was covered by the UNDP.

The mission was undertaken by a team of two: Ms. Joyce Mends-Cole, UNDP Senior Regional Advisor on Gender and Ms. Françoise Wege, ECA Social Affairs Officer. The team was joined later by Ms. Hirut Befekadu, Chief of the OAU Women's unit.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE MISSION**

The principal objectives of the mission were to assist the conference organizers in:

- articulating the theme of the Conference and the issues for discussion;

- conceptualizing the activities planned to take place during the conference and defining the terms of references of consultants and resource persons; and
- Downsizing the budget of the conference.

During the mission, the UNDP country office requested the team to assist in the formulation of a project proposal to be submitted to the Netherlands Government under a Grant called, "Special window for Women".

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MISSION

In line with the above mission objectives, the team took part in the reformulation of the themes to be covered during the Conference. The main purpose of the exercise was to ensure that the conference is well focused and has a regional perspective. The themes agreed upon are:

1. **The Critical Events in Rwanda History - Lessons to be drawn**

The theme will cover some of the critical events in recent Rwandan history and the lessons learned. It will also highlight the efforts of Rwandan women to combat intolerance and politically-motivated divisions in their society and, in particular, their contributions to social reintegration, peace and development after the 1994 genocide and massacres.

2. **Gender, Peace and Development - Linkages for Progress**

Under this theme, the major causes of conflict will be identified and analyzed and traditional methods and practices of conflict resolution shared and reviewed. The essential linkage between peace and development and the different roles and contributions of women and men in those processes will be explored. The qualitative difference of women's perspectives on peace and the need for their participation in all efforts for peace and security will be highlighted, in order to create a strengthened partnership between women and men for peace and development.

3. **Effective partnerships for promotion of a culture of peace**

Under this item, the Conference will analyze the different roles and responsibilities of governments, civil society, private sector, the international community and the media in the resolution of conflicts and the promotion of peace. The role of peace actors will be examined through a gender lens, in order to emphasize the importance of women's perspectives in peace building. The impact of existing peace networks and mechanisms will be studied in order to determine the need for new ones. The results and recommendations of a number of fora on women and peace processes, preceding the conference, will be discussed and taken into account.

4. **Plan of Action for accelerated peace building, sustainable development and the advancement of women**

An integrated and coherent plan of concrete and measurable actions will be developed for the implementation of the goals of the Fourth World Conference on Women at national and regional levels. It will also define responsibilities, success indicators and a time-frame for evaluation of progress. As one step in the Plan of Action, the participants will be requested to endorse the establishment of the African Women's Committee on Peace, called for in the Kampala Action Plan.

5. **Kigali Declaration on Peace, Gender and Development**

The declaration will highlight the on-going efforts by African Societies and the international community to end armed conflicts and wars to promote peace. It will also call for specific measures to be taken by women, governments, the civil society and the private sector in order to intensify those efforts and strengthen the critical participation of women in the peace processes.

Secondly, the team assisted in various preparatory activities, including:

- i) selection and definition of activities which will have a high impact and will prolong

guests in view to reducing the Conference to a manageable size of 200-250 participants taking into account the conference and hotel facilities; iii) visiting the conference site and the sites to be visited as part of the conference programme and making comments with a view to improving the conference programme; iv) designing the terms of reference for the resource persons and the substantive and administrative members of the conference secretariat. In this respect, the importance of highly competent staff in the conference secretariat was emphasized in order to ensure efficiency and a successful conference.

The third major task was a thorough review of the conference budget which was estimated at US\$ 535,000. The review revealed that a good percentage of the budget was devoted to the preparatory process within the country. This was justified by the fact that Rwandese women expected to use the conference to lay the ground for an outreaching dialogue on the issue of peace and security as an essential element in the efforts of rebuilding of trust among the population. The budget was cut down to US dollars 431,000.

Fourthly, the team designed a detailed project outline for funding under the Netherlands Government Grant entitled "Special Window for Women". The project proposal is an attempt to respond to the critical need for shelter in Rwanda; increase women's resources and opportunities; and strengthen the capacities of existing women machineries to enable them to adequately address gender issues. The major components of the project are:

- Provision of Shelter to a selected number of women and their families;
- Capacity building for women's machineries;
- Promotion of income generating activities to expand women's economic opportunities.

The grant expected from Netherlands is 3 million US dollars.

## GENERAL REMARKS

The mission was able to meet its objectives of assisting on one hand the conference organizers in substantive preparation of the Conference and the Ministry of Family and Women Affairs in the elaboration of the project proposal for the Netherlands Grant to Rwandese women, on the other hand.

It appeared from the meetings and discussions held with the Ministry of Family and Promotion of Women and various women's groups that the conference on Peace will be an opportunity to bring to the world's attention the danger of politically-motivated divisions and to define a more participatory role for women in the resolution of conflicts.

The discussions with development agents and partners also showed that Rwandese authorities and NGOs have demonstrated a lot of will and determination to improve women's living conditions. However, in view of the numerous pressing issues to be addressed, there is a tendency to focus more on emergency matters than long lasting solutions and developmental issues. There is also a strong need for support from the international community for adequate orientation and coordination of assistance programmes and for strengthening the human capacities.

Unlike most UN agencies, ECA is not present in Rwanda. Efforts should be made to ensure ECA's participation in the reconstruction of the country. As far as gender issues are concerned, in addition to participating in the preparation and organization of the Conference on Peace, ECA should assist the country in building capacities for gender analysis and for ensuring a gender perspective in the reconstruction programmes.

**IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED**

Action required is:

- i) Provision of necessary reference and background materials by ECA/African Centre for Women;
- ii) Identification and hiring of the technical and administrative advisors for strengthening the conference secretariat;
- iii) Mobilisation of funds for the conference;
- iv) Mobilization of resources by the OAU to cover the cost of interpretation;
- v) Provision of services of an OAU conference officer to assist and advise the conference secretariat;
- iv) Undertaking of another joint mission to Kigali, Rwanda to assist in the finalization of the preparatory process.

ECA should provide the assistance required and make every effort to ensure the success of the Conference.

**PANAFRICAN CONFERENCE ON PEACE, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT  
KIGALI, RWANDA, 1 - 3 MARCH 1997**

**ESTIMATED BUDGET**

Budget line	Description of items	Estimated cost (in US\$)
1.00	Personnel:	
1.01	International Experts:	50,000
	Technical Advisor (2w/m)	
	Advisor on Admin. matters (2w/m)	
	Media Expert (1w/m)	
13.00	Administrative support:	7,400
	Bilingual secretary	
	Secretary	
	Admin. Assistant-Accountant	
	Reproduction Assistant	
	Driver	
15.00	Official Missions	780
16.00	Mission Costs	5,014
17.00	National Experts/Consultants:	22,500
	Conference Secretary	
	General (9w/m) \$18,000	
	Consultant for project design \$1,500	
19.00	National Consultant for drafting the conf. paper (1w/m) \$1,500	
	Media consultant (1w/m) \$1,500	
22.00	Sub-total	85,694
29.00	Sub-contract:	15,500
	Film production	
32.00	Sub-total	15,500
	Meetings-Conference:	197,722
	Mobilization meetings (\$34,172)	
	Commissions meetings (\$47,000)	
	Orientation meeting (\$3,400)	
	Sales-Exhibition (\$27,000)	
	Cultural Activities (\$24,500)	
40.00	Servicing of the Conference	
41.00	(\$61,650)	
	Equipment:	
	Non-Expendable Equipment	15,353
	Computer & computer (\$3,769)	
	Photocopy machine (\$9,586)	

42.00	Fax machine(\$792)	
	Telephone (\$185)	
	Binder (\$994)	
49.00	Calculator, puncher, stapler,	
	scissors..(\$ 77)	
52.00		
53.0	Stationneries & Supplies	41,165
59.00	Sub-total	56,518
	Reporting Costs	53,000
	Translation (\$ 8,000)	
	Interpretation (45,000)	
	Miscellaneous	2,150
	Total Cost	410,584
	5% Support Cost	20,529
99.00	Grand Total	431,113

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Below is a budget explanation for each budget line.

11.00 A provision of US\$ 50,000 has been made to cover the cost of three international experts who will assist the Secretary General in the preparation and organization of the conference. This strong support is essential because the organizers of the conference have no or very limited experience in organizing large international conferences.

13.00 The secretariat of the conference will require adequate support staff. The support personnel will be mainly one bilingual secretary; one secretary who will also assist with the filing system; an administrative Assistant who will be keeping the accounts; one reproduction assistant and one driver.

15.00 The Secretary General of the conference will undertake a few sensitization missions in the prefectures with a view to briefing the officials on the objectives and the expected outcome of the conference and requesting them to mobilize the population around the themes of the conference. The cost of these missions is estimated at US\$ 780.

16.00 Missions will be undertaken throughout the country for in-country mobilization. This exercise is extremely important as it will also enable to gather the views of the population on the issues of the conference.

17.00 Experts required at national level will be the Secretary General for the overall coordination of the conference, a consultant who will prepare the technical paper on Rwanda and a media expert for the

publicity and coverage of the preparatory process including the intensive mobilization of the Rwandese population towards the conference.

22.00 It is planned to produce a 30 minutes film on Rwanda to be shown during the conference at an estimated cost of US\$ 15,500.

32.00 A provision is made for several sensitization and preparatory meetings and the cost of servicing the conference, as well as some parallel activities such the sales-exhibition of women's products, cultural events and an international concert. All these activities are aimed at ensuring full participation of the entire Rwandese population in the reflection on the issues of gender, peace, and development and the role of women in the country's efforts of reconstruction and building of lasting peace.

41.00 The secretariat of the conference will need adequate equipment i.e. a computer, a printer, a photocopy machine, a telephone and fax machine.

42.00 A substantial amount will be needed to cover stationeries & supplies essential for smooth organization of a conference.

52.00 Reporting costs are for translation and interpretation since the conference will be conducted in English and French.

53.00 A provision of US \$ 2,150 is made for health facilities during the period of the conference.