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Meeting of Ministers
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Report of the meeting of ministers of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD)
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INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Experts of the ECA Committee on Women and Development (CWD) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the United Nations Conference Centre, from 5-7 November 2001. The meeting was attended by ministers from the following countries members and non-members of the CWD: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Republic of Congo, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Delegates representing the following countries members of CWD were also present: Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon, Comoros, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Swaziland, Sudan, Chad, Togo, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Other countries represented included: Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Lesotho, Libya, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Madagascar, Niger, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia. Some intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) were also represented, namely: East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The following NGOs members of CWD were also present: Women and Law in Southern Africa Research Trust (WLSA); Tanzania Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO); Mozambique National Association for Rural Development (ANRU); Institut Panafriquean pour le Développement (PAID); Comité International des Femmes Africaines pour le Développement (CIFAD); and Association des Femmes Pag-La Yiri Zabré. Also present were the following UN agencies: UNIFEM, ILO, UNCTAD/WTO, FAO, IFAD, DESA/OSCAC and UNDCP/ODCCP, UNEP, World Bank, UNAIDS, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, UNCHS (Habitat), UNFPA, and IOM. Also represented were the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, the African Women's Development Fund, and the Organisation Internationale de la francophonie.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING CEREMONY

2. The Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD), Honourable Elliot Manyika, Minister of Youth Development, Gender and Employment Creation in Zimbabwe, welcomed the Minister of Women Affairs of Ethiopia, Mrs Tadelesh Haile Michael, and invited her to make the welcoming remarks. The Minister of Ethiopia welcomed all the participants on behalf of the government of Ethiopia. She noted that the CWD meeting was taking place at a very opportune time, when most African countries are either engaged in the exercise of developing or finalising the Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers (PRSPs). This presented an opportunity to reflect and review achievements and recommend ways and interventions to facilitate the incorporation of gender concerns into macro-economic policy strategies. In this regard, she noted, our task is to guide the process of the formulation and finalisation of the poverty reduction strategies in a gender sensitive and gender responsive manner.

3. She took cognisance of governments' commitments to the fight against poverty and eradication of gender inequality, but reiterated the need to demonstrate commitment through action. To facilitate this, she observed the need to make practical proposals and recommendations. She also shared the experience of Ethiopia in the development of a gender sensitive PRSP.

4. In closing her statement, she wished the participants success in the fight against poverty and gender inequality, and assured the participants of her solidarity with their attempts to eradicate poverty and gender inequality in the region. She wished all participants a happy stay in Ethiopia.
5. The Chairperson of CWD welcomed his colleagues and other delegates to the meeting, and thanked the ministers for attending. He went on to reiterate the mandate of CWD, which includes overseeing the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the advancement of women and gender equality policy frameworks at the national level. It also convenes regional conferences to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, and to report on progress made towards gender equality and the advancement of women at the regional and global levels. This process paves the way for considering what appropriate policy adjustments should be made to accelerate progress.

6. The Minister stressed the important role the Committee has to play in ensuring that gender dimensions are reflected in Poverty Reduction Strategy Programs (PRSP) which are either being implemented or developed. He pointed out the need for a clear framework that would allow women’s national machineries to play a central role in the development of poverty reduction programmes. He however lamented the fact that many women’s machineries were short of skilled human resources in economic development areas in particular, and hence the need for capacity building.

7. The Minister pointed out that one of the agenda items of the meeting is to adopt the Monitoring and Evaluation program to be used in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action. He also made mention of the meeting of UN Agencies in Africa, which was held at the same time as the meeting of experts, and hoped that the meeting of the Agencies took note of the activities of CWD. He then informed the Ministers’ Session that during the transition period of Organization of African Unity (OAU) to the African Unity (AU), CWD would be positioning itself strategically to make sure that gender is integrated into the new organization. In a similar manner, CWD will strive to make sure that gender equality and the advancement of women are taken on board in the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) initiative.

8. He informed the participants that the current members of the Bureau are: Zimbabwe as Chair, Cameroon as 1st Vice Chair, and Nigeria as 2nd Vice Chair. Morocco as rapporteur, Tanzania as vice rapporteur, then Republic of Congo as the Chair of the 6th African Regional Conference on Women, and Zambia, the current Chair of OAU.

9. In his statement, Mr. K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of ECA, welcomed all the participants, and highlighted the increased level of participation, including that of Ministers. He noted that some progress had been made in the area of gender and development, since the last CWD meeting held in Burkina Faso, in 1999, and indicated that African countries have the political will and commitment to address gender issues and enhance the status of women. He however highlighted the need to overcome the various obstacles that impede faster progress in the achievement of expected results.

10. Mr. Amoako observed that the introduction of PRSPs offers a significant opportunity to deepen the focus on broad-based participatory growth strategies that fully integrate gender concerns. He informed the participants that the ECA has been actively involved in supporting the development of PRSPs for Member States. In this regard, he reported that a PRSP Learning Group had been set up by ECA, and that its first meeting had ended on 7 November 2001. Among its recommendations was the need to incorporate the gender approach in PRSPs.
Participants were informed of ECA’s involvement in NEPAD, and that ECA was working on priority sectors including poverty reduction as identified in NEPAD and as requested by OAU Member States at their Lusaka Summit in July 2001.

11. Linking these initiatives to the role of CWO, the Executive Secretary said that CWO offers a vehicle of advocacy through the ECA Conference of Ministers. Further, the CWO can also be used as a vehicle to disseminate best practices in monitoring and evaluating the impacts of the implementation of the Platforms for Action. He stated that the monitoring and evaluation framework which is being developed by ECA, will provide a vital input to the African Women’s Report, which provides information on the status of women in Africa, and which, it is hoped, will become one of the flagship publication of the ECA.

12. In closing his remarks, the Executive Secretary re-affirmed the Commission’s commitment in helping member states to break the vicious cycle of poverty and to bridge the gender-gap.

AGENDA ITEM 2: PRESENTATION OF OFFICERS AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

13. Under this agenda item, the members of the CWO Bureau were presented. The proposed agenda was also adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Presentation of Officers and adoption of the Agenda and the Programme of Work.
4. Consideration of the Report of Experts on the Monitoring and Evaluation Programme with a focus on the Monitoring and Evaluation tools, the Operational Modalities for its implementation at the National, Sub-Regional and Regional levels and its Capacity Building Component.
7. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Meeting of Ministers.
8. Any Other Business.
9. Closing of the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3: REPORT OF THE CWO BUREAU MEETING:

14. Under this agenda item, the Chairperson of CWO, Mr. Elliot Manyika, presented the report of the CWO Bureau meeting.

15. He highlighted the following salient features of the Bureau meeting as summarized below:

- The CWO Bureau noted that there was a need for Ministers in-charge of Women Affairs to attend the ECA meeting of Ministers of Finance and Economic and Social Planning, so as to facilitate enhanced advocacy for better consideration of women’s issues at the national level.
• The Bureau noted that Inter-governmental Organisations (IGOs) are required to present their activities to CWD. It was proposed that the Chair of CWD writes a letter reminding them of this responsibility.
• The Bureau suggested that the joint Secretariat of ECA, OAU and ADB should be better co-ordinated for more effective gender mainstreaming.
• Members of the Bureau committed themselves to serve their current term.

16. The following issues were highlighted during the discussion that followed:
• The importance of availing meeting reports in both English and French;
• The need to clarify the meaning of various acronyms reflected in the reports; and
• Clarification on the change of the Division’s name from the African Centre for Women to the African Centre for Gender and Development. This new name will be submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers for approval.

AGENDA ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXPERTS WITH EMPHASIS ON THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROGRAMME

17. Ms Josephine Ouedraogo, the Director of the ACW, presented the Report of the Experts on the Monitoring and Evaluation Program that was validated by the CWD Experts to the Ministers of the CWD.

18. In her presentation, she reminded the Ministers of the African Plan of Action adopted during the 6th African Regional Conference held in November 2000. She noted that during the Conference, Member States assessed progress made on the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action (PFAs). As a result of this assessment, ECA was mandated to provide to member states a Monitoring and Evaluation Program to enable them to monitor and evaluate progress made by the implementation of the Platforms. The Program would assist member States to prepare an assessment report for presentation to Beijing+10 meeting, which will take place in 2004.

19. Ms. Ouedraogo elaborated on the framework of the Monitoring and Evaluation program. She noted that the programme will consist of indicators for monitoring impact, and modalities for monitoring and evaluation. It will also provide a mechanism for training experts on M&E. The objective was to equip Member States with the capacity to conduct M&E for the implementation of the Beijing and Dakar Platforms for Action. The M&E Programme proposes the crucial sectors that need to be targeted in the process, however, member states are not limited to this selection, and they may select sectors that are critical in their countries. The Programme can be applied to ensure gender integration in any sector at each of the three levels: the policy, institutional and capacity building level.

20. To facilitate the monitoring and evaluation process, ACW has developed M&E Tools for monitoring and evaluating national gender policy frameworks, and institutional mechanisms put in place. Of high priority will be the development of impact indicators that will be used as a Gender and Development Index to measure the impact of mainstreaming gender on the status of women and men. It is expected that these indicators will facilitate the preparation of evaluation reports for the Beijing+10 regional and global meetings.
21. The Director informed the Ministers that the M&E Programme being presented for adoption was reviewed by an Ad Hoc Group of Experts and then discussed and validated by the CWD Experts.

22. The modalities for implementation of the M&E programme were also presented by Ms Ouedraogo. She explained that the programme would be implemented at the national, sub-regional and regional levels within a well-defined time frame. SRDCs in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) will co-ordinate the M&E activities at National and Sub-regional levels. Ms Ouedraogo noted that ACW would clarify the procedures and information channels to the Member States through the SRDCs' Gender Focal Points.

23. Lastly, the Director intimated on the capacity building component of the M&E programme and highlighted the recommendations of the CWD Experts.

24. Congratulating the ECA, the Director of the ACW and the CWD Experts for the quality of the documents and recommendations being presented, the delegates raised the following issues:

25. The Minister from South Africa agreed on the principal need of disaggregated data and improved data collection system. However, he noted that the Ministers have to be aware of impact of adoption of the programme, including the need for statistical service institutions that have the capacity to collect and synthesise information on the status of women. The challenge then, would be to ensure that data collection and methodology applied in analysis would provide valuable information. He also pointed out that capacity building for M&E should be flexible and dependent on structural set-ups and mechanisms for empowering women in each country. Moreover, there was a need to find ways of empowering Gender Focal Points in carrying out their tasks. He appealed for the need to undertake additional work to gauge how the programme will be applied and the obstacles of implementation.

26. The Minster from Uganda noted that Gender Focal Points had been appointed and efforts at mainstreaming gender had been undertaken in many ministries. She recommended that it is the responsibility of the Ministry concerned with Women's Affairs to set benchmarks and strategies for the other Ministries that would be used to evaluate gender mainstreaming.

27. The Representative of Tanzania pointed out that it would be impossible for the Ministry of Women Affairs to push for the collection of disaggregated data. It is necessary to collaborate closely with the Ministry of Planning, which has the mandate over the collection of national statistics. Furthermore, he emphasized the need to address the cross-sectoral nature of gender issues.

28. The Minister from Zambia also touched on the need for integration of gender issues.

29. The Minister from Cote d'Ivoire stressed that the M&E Programme would be a catalyst in measuring progress in the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action. However, she queried as to how the program was going to be financed, noting that Government budgets for 2002 had already been prepared. She therefore supported the Experts recommendation for the development of a feasibility study that would clearly depict the costs for carrying out the capacity building component.
30. The representative of Burkina Faso shared the view of several other Ministers when she stated that the commitments that are made need to be implemented through concrete actions. To this effect, there is a need to stress to Governments the importance of gender.

31. The Ethiopian Minister reiterated the realisations made during the 6th Regional Conference, that mainstreaming gender is a process. Thus, the M&E Programme will clearly serve to build institutions and the capacity of Gender Focal Points. There is a need to share experiences of building capacity, particularly of those of the SADC region. On integrating gender into PRSP, she cautioned on the need for this to be done at the primary stage of development of the poverty reduction frameworks.

32. The Representative of Senegal then highlighted the need for continued political will. He called on the need to embark on an advocacy campaign to sensitise Heads of Government on the importance of gender. He proposed that a delegation consisting of members of the Bureau visit African Heads of State to get M&E proposals supported. He also urged the Committee to recognize the importance of NEPAD's capacity to play a key role in addressing gender issues in poverty alleviation.

33. The Representative of Nigeria informed the meeting that a body to monitor the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action had been established in Nigeria and that gender issues were budgeted for. She then expressed the need to build the capacity of monitoring and evaluation officers in order to facilitate data collection. Observing that contracting for the collection of gender disaggregated data was an expensive exercise, she stressed the importance of having a tool for measuring the contribution of women's work into the GDP using the national accounting systems.

34. The Minister of Rwanda pointed out that M&E cannot be done in a vacuum. Although M&E is an important component, it cannot be done in the absence of a National Gender Policy. It will be difficult for different Ministries to report on success if the Policy is not taken as a serious tool. On the issue of capacity, she noted that the Ministry responsible for Gender Affairs does not always have the capacity to mainstream gender, which is often confused with women issues.

35. The Minister for Ghana shared her country's experiences in improved data collection which had entailed constituting the statistical service into 4 sectoral committees that the Women Affairs Ministry was assisting and guiding to ensure the generation of gender disaggregated data. She further explained the crucial role of Women Desk Officers in most sectoral ministries, most of who had the rank of directors and could therefore influence policy. Her Ministry had also appointed Monitoring and Evaluation Officers even at the regional and district levels who liaised with other sectoral ministries in carrying out their work. With regard to PRSP, the Minister explained that her country had made special efforts to highlight gender concerns as a core area and had built consensus with the civil society on the priority issues. Her Ministry had also established a Micro Finance Scheme to assist women in income generating activities.

36. The Minister from Congo made 3 proposals. Firstly, she recommended that financial resources be found for the Chairperson of CWD so that he could attend the meeting of the ECA Ministers in charge of economic and social planning and finance and the OAU Summit in 2002, to present the outcome of the CWD meeting. Secondly, she proposed that the Chairperson of CWD should
remind Ministers in charge of economic and social planning and finance to integrate into their macro-economic vision, the socio-cultural dimension including gender concerns. Thirdly, she proposed a meeting between the ministers in charge of economic and social planning and finance and the ministers in charge of gender whereby they could engage in a dialogue. To this end the ministers in charge of gender would need to meet two days in advance to prepare a declaration that would be presented to their counterparts for discussion. Finally, she proposed that Member States who were not able to attend the meeting should also be exposed to the M & E programme by ACW.

37. Lastly, The Minister of Mozambique noted that although her country was an observer they accepted the report being presented for adoption. She then shared the experiences of Mozambique’s Mechanism for Co-ordination for the Advancement of Women. In conclusion, she requested that the M&E Programme be translated into Portuguese.

38. The Chairman closed the session by reiterating the call for political will from all the Member States to ensure that gender is mainstreamed and that the M&E programme is implemented.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRATEGIES FOR INTRODUCING GENDER CONCERNS INTO POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMMES**

39. The Director of the ACW presented recommendations on strategies for introducing gender concerns into PRSPs, which had been accepted by the Expert Meeting. She reiterated the message by the Executive Secretary that the ECA has an important role to play in poverty reduction especially through the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and the ECA-sponsored Learning Group. The Director emphasized that ECA’s commitment is directed towards initiatives which build the capacity of African stakeholders so as to achieve the International Development Target (IDT) of reducing poverty by half by the year 2015. She underlined the need for the PRSPs to take gender equality concerns into account.

40. The Director observed that PRSPs are not like Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), even though some of the principles of SAPs could be used to address poverty issues. She presented a framework for addressing poverty. The framework seeks to identify synergies between ECA, Member Countries and NEPAD, which is in line with the goals of Millennium 2000. The framework also aims to achieve the IDT of reducing poverty by half by the year 2015. This target can be achieved through a change in consumption expenditure (per capita income), and a change in the distribution of income as an inequality measure. In these terms, a GDP growth of about 7% per annum will be required. However, the framework singles out two key challenges in realising this target.

41. The first challenge was whether this target could be achieved by relying solely on the existing macroeconomic policies. Although macroeconomic policies had spurred the recent high growth rates of 5 - 7% in several African countries, they were not enough in themselves to sustain growth. Moreover, the growth reported had not necessarily resulted in poverty reduction. This suggested that people-centred development actions should be factored into PRSPs. She pointed out that increasing evidence indicated that integrating gender into PRSPs contributed to sustainable growth.
42. The second challenge was how to deepen understanding of the links between gender equality and poverty. She noted that reduction in budget deficits could have negative impact on poverty if adequate provision was not made to compensate for cuts in expenditure. For example, cuts in public expenditure in health, education and removal of subsidy for agriculture generally make the poor worse off. It is therefore essential that gender be mainstreamed into national budgets, so as to ensure that: (i) both women and men are involved in the budgetary process; (ii) resources are allocated for priority investments that respond to the needs of both men and women; and (iii) budget tracking ensures that the impact of public spending benefits both women and men.

43. To achieve these objectives, the strategy document proposed the following actions to mainstream gender into macroeconomic policies:

(a) poverty diagnosis aimed at reducing women's time burden, so as to increase efficiency and productivity of time use;
(b) institute policy responses/priorities based on participatory approach in which the capacity of all stakeholders to influence policy and budget processes will be developed;
(c) institute planning and budgeting which will involve all stakeholders in decision-making; and
(d) develop monitoring and evaluation indicators which will be used for advocacy.

44. Consequently, the following recommendations were made by the CWD Experts:

(a) Institutions should be set up to reduce poverty among the marginalised groups. In this connection, the Committee urged regional and international organizations to speed up the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund mechanism which aims at reducing poverty in deprived regions such as Africa and helping marginalized categories, particularly women. The Committee requested the ACW to collaborate with the relevant UN agencies to this end.
(b) There should be effective implementation of laws that provide equal opportunities and equal access to assets and to decision-making positions.

45. In the discussion that followed, delegates raised the following issues:

• ECA was requested to propose a matrix that will help to design a gender responsive allocation of resources in the budgetary processes.
• The budgetary processes should be participatory through the use of elected institutions such as parliaments. Women's participation in such elected institutions should be encouraged.
• A specialised committee for gender and development issues should be created within parliaments.
• In order for Africa to benefit from globalisation, the national PRSPs should guarantee the economic empowerment of women by strengthening their skills through capacity building programmes and enhancing the competitiveness of their medium and small-scale enterprises.
• The declaration and the recommendations of the African Preparatory Conference for the 3rd world conference on LDCs held in Cape Town in March 2001 was commended and endorsed. African LDCs were encouraged to take the necessary measures to follow-up the implementation of the recommendations with support from ECA and other partners.
• Regional and international institutions were urged to accelerate the implementation of the Global Solidarity Fund for the reduction of poverty in LDCs. ACW was requested to collaborate with the relevant UN system organisations in this regard.
• To address poverty issues effectively, it was recommended that micro-economic and micro-political issues should be addressed in the PRSP process;
• In developing gender sensitive budgets it was recommended that a matrix be developed to determine resource allocation in different sectors;
• There should be greater participation of women at all levels in the PRSP process;
• Ministries of Gender Affairs should seek to work with parliamentarians to facilitate mainstreaming gender into national budgets;
• African countries should take advantage of the World Solidarity Fund by becoming members to the Fund as an alternative source of resources for poverty reduction;
• The CWD should promote collaboration with the World Bank, IMF, NEPAD and other donors to mobilize resources for poverty reduction;
• Poverty reduction measures should explore overseas and regional markets for women's products and take into account the negative impacts of globalization on women - (examples of markets that could be exploited include Afro-Arab Trade Fair, All Africa Trade Fair, SADC Free Trade Area);
• Valuation of women's unpaid and paid work should be promoted and integrated into national planning instruments e.g. GDP and budgets;
• Women producers should be provided with a forum at sub-regional and regional meetings to ensure that they are part and parcel of the decision-making process;
• The issue of "traditional roles" which create a lot of barriers for women should be addressed in PRSPs;
• Within two years from now, ECA should monitor progress in implementation of the policy paper relating to the strategic actions proposed and validated by the Expert Group meeting, and hold follow-up meetings to continue dialogues on engendering PRSPs and gender mainstreaming of policies and other national planning instruments.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE UN AFRICAN INTERAGENCY GROUP FOR WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

46. In presenting its report, the Africa United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Women and Gender Equity (IAGWGE) reported that its creation was the outcome of the meeting initiated by the Director of ACW with UNDP, UNFPA and UNIFEM during the global Inter-Agency Group on Women and Gender Equity meeting in New York, in March 2001.

47. The aim of the initiative was to foster greater co-operation and co-ordination among agencies with the objective of providing support to African governments and other stakeholders for the achievement of gender equality and the advancement of women.

48. The presenter stated that the group was guided by the United Nations Charter on Human Rights and Africa’s commitments to the ratification and implementation of the CEDAW Convention, and to the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action and other related United Nations commitments. The UN agencies had accepted ECA’s request to form a support Group to the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) to promote gender concerns as a crosscutting issue in this initiative.

49. The objectives of this African UN-IAGWGE are to:
   i. facilitate information sharing on programmes and strategies at the regional level;
ii. support and strengthen sub-regional and regional initiatives;
iii. facilitate inter-agency collaboration on national capacity building to implement CEDAW and the African Plan of Action including its monitoring and evaluation programme; and
iv. provide inter-agency support to ACW on the co-ordination of the monitoring and evaluation of CEDAW as well as the follow-up to the Dakar and Beijing Conference as specified in the African Platform for Action.

50. The IAGWGE suggested the following modalities to achieve these objectives:

i. Develop a framework of reporting and disseminating information on each UN agency’s initiatives, programmes and activities on gender. (ACW will initiate the co-ordination);
ii. Support the initiatives that are being developed by the CWD and NEPAD;
iii. Promote gender capacity building activities at regional, sub-regional and national levels;
iv. Promote exchange of experiences in gender mainstreaming;
v. Establish a data-base of African women professionals to promote the appointments of women to high-level decision-making positions;
vi. Provide support to ACW for the preparation of the African regional report on women and for the organisation of the African Regional Conference on Women preparatory to the Beijing + 10 process;
vii. Contribute to the elaboration of the African Gender and Development Index as a reporting framework on progress of the status of African women, which will be published in the African Women Report.

51. The IAGWGE had identified the areas of collaboration as being HIV/AIDS, mainstreaming gender in various policies including those related to poverty reduction, agricultural development and trade promotion, conflict resolution and peace making and governance, including women’s access to decision-making.

52. As an initial follow-up to the first gathering of the African Chapter of the IAGWGE gathering, the meeting:

• Requested the ECA - ACW to ensure the co-ordination of the follow-up in line with the recommended actions;
• Entrusted the ECA - ACW Secretariat with the representation of the African Chapter of IAGWGE at the Commission on the Status on Women, and in this regard, requested the secretariat to organise a round of consultations in preparation for the 46th session of the CSW.
• Requested the CWD to provide it with guidance in its deliberations and actions,
• Recommended the CWD to present the results of its (the Committee’s) deliberations to the OAU Council of Ministers, in view of ensuring that gender concerns are integrated in all common African policies and programmes, lastly the meeting;
• Recommend that the OAU and the African Development Bank be invited as observers to the African Chapter of the IAGWGE.

53. Following the presentation, the representative of OAU welcomed the recommendation that OAU be invited as an observer to the African Chapter of the IAGWGE, and indicated that full membership would have been even more appreciated. She however expressed concern regarding the recommendation that the Committee on Women and Development, as a subsidiary organ and part of the decision-making institutions of the UNECA, presents the results of its deliberations to the OAU Council of Ministers. While accepting the need to ensure that gender
concerns are integrated in all common African policies and programmes, she felt that there was a missing link between CWD as a UN organ, and the Council of Ministers of OAU as an OAU organ.

54. In response, the Director of ECA/ACW explained that CWD is an African body, even though it was set-up within the ECA framework. Besides, ECA is a body for promoting development of economic policies of African countries. She also felt that CWD has access to OAU, since it is the only regional structure through which ministers in charge of women affairs can meet and deliberate.

55. The OAU representative proposed that since the Abuja Treaty, which is binding within the OAU framework, provided for sectoral Committees to advise the appropriate OAU Policy Organs, the CWD could meet and make recommendations to the OAU Council of Ministers in this capacity as a duly constituted subsidiary organ of the OAU. After a long discussion, it was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Workshop that is to take place sometime towards the end of February 2002, and that in the meantime, the OAU is to clarify the position.

56. The Ministers commended the creation of the African Chapter of the UN Inter-agency Group for Women and Gender Equality, especially as it will form a support group to the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) to promote gender concerns as a crosscutting issue in the initiative.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

57. Under this agenda item, the Chairperson invited the Rapporteur, Mrs Nezha Chekhrouni, Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Child Protection of? to present the report, which was available in English only.

58. A number of delegates expressed their regret for the unavailability of the report in French and Arabic and urged the secretariat to resolve this problem in future. The Director of ACW, however, explained the logistical and human difficulties of producing the report in French in time for adoption, and promised that it would be completed, and duly forwarded to all participants shortly.

59. Other comments raised included the importance of stressing the coordinating role of the joint secretariat of OAU, ECA and ADB in the gender mainstreaming process. It was also suggested that the report uses the term gender "equality" throughout, rather than using it interchangeably with gender "equity". Other comments of editorial nature were handed to the secretariat for reflection into the report. Participants stressed their appreciation for the work achieved by the ACW and its Director.

60. The report was then unanimously adopted as amended.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

61. No issues were raised under this agenda item.
AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING OF THE MEETING

62. The meeting was formally closed by the Chairperson of CWD, Honourable E.T. Manyika

63. In his closing remarks, he thanked the Director of ACW and the secretariat for the hard work that had facilitated the meeting of the ministers. He stated that to him, the one-day meeting had been a rewarding experience that had allowed the delegates to deliberate on a number of wide-ranging issues as summarized in the report that they had just adopted. He then highlighted some of the upcoming meetings in which some of the issues raised in the CWD meeting would be followed up, including the ECA meeting of the Ministers responsible for economic and social planning and finance, to which he could present the outcome of the CWD meeting. He stressed the continued need for political will without which gender can not be mainstreamed into PRSP programmes or in macro and micro-economic policies. He concluded by thanking all the participants for their contributions and declared the meeting closed.
ANNEX I

Statement by Honourable E.T. Manyika,
Minister of Youth Development, Gender & Employment Creation
Zimbabwe
Chairperson – CWD Bureau
Addis Ababa
8th November 2001

Honourable Ministers,
Your Excellency, the Executive Secretary of ECA
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Representatives of the OAU,
Director of the African Centre for Women,
Distinguished Representatives of the UN,
Distinguished Delegates,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to welcome you all to this Ministerial Session. Let me also express my profound gratitude to all Ministers who are here today for this important meeting. As a Minister myself, I understand the busy schedules that all of you have, and I appreciate that you were able to find time from your hectic schedules to be here. This is evidence of our commitment to addressing the gender inequalities that exist on our continent.

May I again say I feel honoured to be the Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Development. It is my hope that during my tenure as Chair, with your support, the Committee will implement its mandate and concretise a shared vision of gender equality guided by the Africa Platform for Action.

I want to re-emphasize the importance of the Committee for Women and Development, which as you all know is a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Africa. CWD advises the Economic Commission for Africa on gender related issues and is the only body that coordinates work on gender issues in Africa. The Committee was set up with a mandate to oversee the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the advancement of women in this region. It therefore commits governments and intergovernmental organizations to report on progress on gender equality and the advancement of women.

The Committee is also mandated to convene Regional Conferences for monitoring and evaluating the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action. The African Centre for Women serves as its Secretariat. Current members of the Bureau are Zimbabwe, as chair, Cameroon, 1st Vice-Chairperson, Nigeria 2nd Vice-Chairperson, Morocco 1st Rapporteur, Tanzania, 2nd Rapporteur, Republic of Congo the Chairperson of the 6th Regional Conference on Women, and Zambia the current Chair of OAU.

The Committee of Women and Development is meeting at an opportune time when most African countries are developing Poverty Reduction Strategy Programmes. The Executive Secretary of ECA has already noted CWD has an important role to play in ensuring that gender dimensions are reflected in these programmes. Let me remind you, that women and poverty is one of the critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action.

When we consider the recommendations of strategies for introducing gender concerns into PRSP we need to be cognizant of the need for a clear framework. This would ensure that Women’s National Machineries play a central role in the development of Poverty Reduction Programmes as they liaise closely with the Ministries of
Finance, Economic Planning and Development. It should be recognized that there are limited or no skills in economic development within Women's National Machineries. It is important to address this if we are to effectively influence PRSPs. Therefore, our strategies for introducing gender concerns should not underplay the need for capacity building in all the Ministries involved in the PRSP initiative.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
It is now six-years since we made commitments to Dakar and Beijing Platform for Action, we therefore need to ask ourselves where we are. It is appropriate that in this meeting we are being asked to consider and adopt a Monitoring and Evaluation Programme. The programme provides us with comprehensive monitoring and evaluation tools and the operational modalities for implementation at national, sub-regional and regional levels. Also included in the programme is a much needed monitoring and evaluation capacity building component. If we adopt the Monitoring and Evaluation programme the onus is on us to ensure that it is implemented by our Governments.

I would like to assure the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Committee's Experts that the recommendations to be tabled for adoption today will be taken seriously.

As the Chair to the Committee, I would like an assurance from the African Centre for Women as our Secretariat, that it will facilitate our ability to make good of our commitments and help countries co-ordinate and share information on gender mainstreaming.

I am made to understand that the UN Agencies in Africa had a parallel meeting to consider ways of fostering collaboration in building synergies to support African Development. May I congratulate you for taking this initiative and hope your recommendations will take cognisance of the activities that CWD will be discussing in this meeting.

Let me deliberately draw your attention to the current transition of OAU to the African Union. My Committee will be positioning itself strategically so as to ensure that gender is inherent in the new structure and policy direction.

Ladies and gentlemen,
I am sure by now you are all aware of the exciting New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). It would be folly of us as an African Committee not to strive to ensure that this initiative takes on board gender equality and the advancement of women.

In conclusion, may I reiterate my commitment, as the Chair of CWD, with your support, that the Committee will facilitate the implementation of resolutions made during this meeting.

I Thank You.
ANNEX II

Meeting of Ministers on Committee on Women and Development,
Opening Remarks by K. Y. Amoako,
Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).
08 November 2001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Honourable Ministers,
Senior Officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you to this meeting of Ministers of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD). I am pleased to welcome all ministers, some of whom have not visited ECA before. During your stay I hope you will feel free to visit ECA and familiarize yourselves with its work.

This year's meeting has particularly registered a high level of attendance. Over 29 countries are attending, with 19 of these being CWD member countries. The meeting is also a rich mix of experts from the Ministries of Women Affairs, Finance and Economic Development, UN partner Agencies, IGOs and NGOs. This is evidence of the seriousness with which member states are taking the concerns of gender inequalities in Africa.

This meeting takes place seven and eight years after the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action respectively. Since the last CWD Meeting held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in April 1999, some progress has been made in Africa, in the area of gender and development. The Sixth Regional Conference on Women was held in November 1999 here in Addis Ababa to assess progress since Dakar and Beijing Platforms were committed to by your governments. From the National reports presented at this conference, it is clear that the majority of the African countries have the political will and commitment to creating an environment conducive to addressing gender issues and enhancing the status of women. NGOs are very active partners in supporting government initiatives.

However, in spite of progress that has been registered, there are still fundamental challenges that remain to be addressed. The first challenge is how to bring about change in the process of eradicating poverty in Africa where it is estimated that over 70 percent of the poor are women. Although women and men share the burdens of poverty, in most societies in Africa, women are also subject to socially imposed constraints that further limit their opportunities to improve economic conditions or to equal access to public services and consumption goods. Women are also subject to heavy time burdens due to the need to balance demands on their productive, social reproductive, and community management roles. Studies have shown that when both household and market work are taken into account, women work much longer hours than their male counterparts. This is ironical given that both men and women play significant roles in economic development of the region. Women contribute 70 percent of the labour force in agricultural production and produce over 90 percent of the food in Africa especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The second challenge which is linked to the first is how to address the gender inequality that persists in access to and control of productive, human, and social capital assets. Recent UNDP studies show that women in Africa receive less than 10 percent of the credit going to small farmers and 1 percent of the total credit given to the agricultural sector. Studies have also shown that there is differential access to essential public services including education and health in nearly all African countries. Despite the belief that education is the single most important investment a country can make to eradicate poverty, education has registered the lowest average annual growth in total years of schooling between 1969 and 1990 of all regions. Gender disparity in enrolment persists at all levels of the education system. This is indeed saddening given that knowledge, innovation, and application of skills is considered by the new endogenous growth concept as the only source of
long term economic growth. It is therefore a missed opportunity in terms of growth to deny education to girls who in many countries not only outnumber boys but also mature to be the backbone of livelihoods.

The third challenge is whether the International Development Target (IDT) to reduce poverty by half by the year 2015 can be achieved and sustained over the next two decades if macroeconomic policies do not adequately incorporate gender dimensions. Our studies show that to achieve the IDT demands a 4 percent reduction per year in the ratio of people living in poverty. In these terms, GDP growth of about 7 percent per annum would be required for Africa as a whole. Many of you, Honourable Ministers, may be aware that despite good economic performance reported in several African countries in the recent past, the impact of this growth does not seem to reduce poverty. For ECA, poverty reduction is a key concern and central to the initiatives and advocacy work we are undertaking. Moreover, we have now moved a step forward to add value to this work by systematically mainstreaming gender perspectives as a development objective in all our sectoral activities.

In this regard, ECA is becoming actively involved in the development of Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers (PRSPs). The PRSP as all of you may be aware, is a framework for developing poverty reduction strategies at country level as nationally-owned participatory poverty reduction strategies that should provide the basis of all their concessional lending and for the debt relief under the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. I believe the introduction of the PRSPs offers a significant opportunity to deepen the focus on broad-based participatory growth strategies that fully integrate gender concerns. Governments now need to take steps to ensure that women's concerns are integrated into policies and translation into action. The PRSPs provides an opportune vehicle to ensure that in eradicating poverty all poor groups benefit. It is for this reason that ECA has identified one of its activities being to assist governments to look at gender and PRSPs.

The PRSP should therefore be considered as an important entry point for mainstreaming gender into sustainable development process and to enhance African ownership of these strategies.

ECA as the main UN organ for development in Africa has also been involved in the recent initiative of the African Leaders: the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). We are working on priority sectors as identified in NEPAD and as requested by OAU Member States at their Lusaka Summit in July 2001. The NEPAD will in future be a vehicle for making significant transformation of the African economy, and through it, opportunities exist for integrating gender perspectives.

Let me now link these initiatives to the role of the CWO. As a statutory organ and a subsidiary of ECA, CWO offers an important avenue for Ministries of Women Affairs in Africa to influence the various initiatives that I have already highlighted.

The CWD should also be used as a vehicle to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of the Dakar and Beijing Platform for Actions. Consideration and adoption of the monitoring and evaluation framework, which has been developed by ECA and validated by your committee of experts, is an item on your agenda. The results of this monitoring and evaluation framework will provide a vital input to the African Women's Report, which is a periodic flagship publication providing all stakeholders with information on changes being realised in the situation of women.

Honourable Ministers,

This is your meeting and I therefore trust that you will be committed to the implementation of the results of this meeting at your national level.

Let me conclude by re-affirming the Commission’s commitment to supporting Member States in breaking the vicious cycle of poverty and to bridge the gender-gap. These are two pre-requisites for sustainable social and economic development. I am confident that your meeting will yield practical recommendations for improving
the development of gender-sensitive poverty reduction strategies in Africa and which are consistent with the requirements of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, that is gender equality and equity.

With these brief remarks, I would like to call upon the Chair to set the stage for our discussions.

Thank you.
ANNEX III

Minutes of the Meeting of the CWD Bureau, which was held on the 7 November 2001, at 14.30pm.

The Chairperson of the Bureau of the CWD welcomed the members to the meeting and then invited the Director of African Centre for Women (ACW), Ms. Josephine Ouedraogo, to take the floor.

On taking the floor, the Director of ACW thanked the members of the Bureau on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Mr. K.Y. Amoako, for coming to the meeting. She pointed out that the agenda sent to the members when inviting them to the current meeting had been changed to reflect new issues of importance, and which related to Africa’s participation to the Commission on the Status of Women. She then proceeded to present the new agenda.

On agenda item 1, which related to the mandate of the CWO and mandate of the Bureau, the Director explained that the Committee was founded in 1976, and its mandate had to do with issues of women and development agenda in Africa, and more recently, the implementation of the Platforms for Action. In all, there are four such Committee of the ECA that deal with different dimensions of the Commission’s work. Each Committee examines issues relating to its mandate. She pointed out that the Committee is supposed to identify priorities as well as recommendations in the area of gender and development, and report them to the ECA Conference of Ministers. The Committee is made up of 19 members, 10 NGOs, UN agencies and the joint Secretariat of ECA, OAU and ADB.

Regarding the frequency of the meetings, the members of the Bureau of CDW should meet at least once a year, but could meet two times at the recommendation of the Chairperson. This is in fact what happened during the 6th African Regional Conference and last year during the Mid-term review of Beijing +5. The CWD Bureau has five members representing the 5 sub-regions. There are two other members, namely: Congo, in its capacity as the Chair of the 6th Regional Conference, and Zambia, as the current Chair of OAU. The Director then explained the change of name from the African Centre for Women to African Centre for Gender and Development.

On taking the floor, the chairperson of the 6th Regional Conference congratulated the new members, as she had not had an opportunity to do so earlier.

The representative of Tanzania enquired about the criteria for renewal of membership to the Bureau. The Director explained that normally, 2/3 of membership is changed every two years, whilst 1/3 is retained to ensure continuity. Representation for each sub-region is determined on the basis of alphabetical order, but alternating the order of the alphabet so as to ensure that those on the last end of the alphabetical spectrum do not take too long before being members. For instance, when choosing 2 countries from a sub-region in a given year, we would chose one country whose name is closest to A and the other whose name is closest to Z.

Cameroon wanted to know about the term of membership. The Director explained that the term is 2 years but that if the Bureau is not active, the membership would have to be renewed in the next meeting of CWD. Zambia said that CWD was very important and that it intends to propose that the Bureau meets and agrees on a plan of action for activities to be undertaken before it hands over to the next bureau.

On Agenda item 2, the Director presented the agenda of the current CWD meeting, and indicated that it comprised of three main items. The first was activities reports on gender by the IGOs, the OAU and the ACW. She also spoke about Africa’s contribution to the 45th Commission on the Status of Women, and noted the lack of coordination among African States in their participation, which was subsumed under G 77 and China as
opposed to some other regions. The second agenda item related to monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Platforms for Action, whilst the third related to the poverty reduction strategy papers. She also pointed out that there was a parallel inter-agency meeting, to examine how Africa is approaching gender issues, and how their efforts can be made more effective. She said that other regions have UN inter-agency groups, and that the same approach should be adopted in Africa.

Congo wanted to know whether the ECA’s Conference of ministers’ meeting has to always be held in the month of March, as this conflicted with activities undertaken by many countries for Women’s day, on 8th of March. She wondered whether the date for these meetings could be changed to enable more ministers of women to attend. The Director explained that the ECA’s Conference of ministers is for ministers of finance and planning.

With regard to agenda item 3, the Director pointed out that IGOs do not seem to understand that they have the mandate or responsibility to present their activities reports to the CWD, and that even after several requests and explanations, there was no favourable response from several of them. She suggested that it might be necessary for the Chairman of the CWD to write a letter to them reiterating their mandate to report their activities to this organ. In relation to this concern, Morocco pointed out that there is need for means and mechanisms for awareness creation.

Congo referred to how effort can be better co-ordinated and that members of CWD should be under pressure to meet their mandate e.g., there is need to establish modalities for better flow of communication between members of CWD and their Chair. With regard to IGOs, Congo said that it would be good to send them a letter reminding them of their terms of reference. She noted that ADB has done a lot in the area of gender and development, which it can share with other IGOs.

Tanzania pointed out that it is imperative that pressure be applied to our ministers to gender mainstream, and that this would be better achieved if the joint secretariat of ECA, OAU and ADB was better co-ordinated. He continued to say that UN could help in building capacity to mainstreaming gender in national policies, through capacity building for analysis on gender issues, whether in poverty reduction or any other development issue. He went on to point out the large gap between policy and implementation and the differences that emerge, depending on whether you have men or women in charge of development projects, as they prioritise differently.

Morocco expressed concern about the role of the CWD on the issue of allocation of resources to gender issues by member States. In response to this, the Director of ACW said that the Experts of CWD had agreed that funding of gender programmes and projects of member States should not be left to agencies.

The Chairperson pointed out that CWD had not been working hard. He agreed with the Congolese minister that CWD needed to be more active and forceful than it had been. They could pressure the ECA Conference of Ministers to set up their funding of gender programmes, and get commitment from the highest level. There was a need for networking within members of the Committee.

Congo suggested that ministers in charge of women affairs should attend the ECA Conference of Ministers. She felt that should these ministers have an opportunity to attend the Conference, they would be better able to advocate for the inclusion of women issues at the country level. The Chairperson suggested that the recommendation made by the Congo should be brought up during the Ministers meeting. Tanzania’s representative said Congo’s point was very important because finance ministers discussed mostly macroeconomic issues. He also suggested that alternatively, gender ministries could submit a checklist of demands to be discussed at the ECA Conference of ministers.
In contributing to the foregoing discussion, the Director of ACW said that the CWD is supposed to make recommendations to the ECA’s Conference of Ministers, since it (CWD) does not attend the Conference. She however said that if the Bureau felt that this is not sufficient, and that it is necessary that ministers in charge of women affairs participate in the ECA Conference of ministers, then, the Bureau would have to negotiate with the Executive Secretary of ECA, Mr. Amoako.

With regard to agenda item 4, the Director of ACW said that there will be two speeches, one by Mr. Amoako and the other by the Chairperson of the meeting. She elaborated that the other items on the agenda are of technical nature, and will be presented by the Rapporteur.

Under AOB, the Director sought clarification as to whether recommendations emanating from this meeting should be included in the agenda of the ministers meeting, or whether they should be presented at the end of the report as recommendations endorsed by the Bureau. Congo said they should be incorporated as recommendations in the report, so that they can be discussed. In other words, they should be discussed under agenda item number 3 of the ministers meeting work programme, as minutes of the deliberations of the Bureau.

In closing the meeting of the Bureau, the Chairperson thanked members of the Bureau for the fruitful discussions and for coming to the meeting.