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West African NGOs report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

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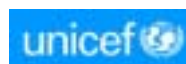


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PREAMBLE

Prior to the end of decade evaluation of the Beijing Platform of action, the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) through the African Centre for Gender and Development organised a consultation of African Women NGOs and organisations working on Gender for preparation towards the NGO Forum at the 7th African Regional Conference in Addis Ababa from July 22 – 23.

The specific objective of the Consultation was the planning of the NGO Forum on the implementation of ten years of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action and mobilising resources and partners for supporting the preparatory processes of the forum.

At the consultation, a regional organising committee made up of regional and sub regional networks was set up to organise the forum and prepare an African regional NGO report.

At the consultation it became apparent that contrary to the expectations of the United Nations, African women NGOs were not adequately mobilised to participate in the review process. Only two sub regions, Southern and Eastern Africa had produced the NGO alternative report based on the questionnaires sent to member States by the Division on the Advancement of Women.

The other sub regions, including West Africa had to start national processes to enable them complete their national report and submit to ECA and the Organising Committee by August 31, 2004. Consequently, the West Africa sub regional office of WiLDAF/FeDDAF and the International Association of Francophone Women were nominated to organise NGOs in the sub region.

The WiLDAF/FeDDAF office immediately started the process of identifying focal points in all countries of the sub region for preparation of the country reports.

Focal points were identified in the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, la Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo with the mandate to conduct a participatory process involving all NGOs in writing the alternate report to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

On August 26 and 27, a preparatory meeting was held in Lomé, Togo. 23 representatives from West African countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, la Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal and Togo and sub-regional networks namely the International Association of Francophone Women, PAWO, WANEP, AAWORD, and the African women Development fund participated in the meeting. List of participant attached as **Appendix I**.

Even though there was no representative from Guinea and Sierra Leone, their reports were sent for inclusion in the sub regional report.

The meeting considered all the national reports and came out with seven (7) priority areas for the sub-region as well as recommendations for Governments. The

report of the meeting is attached as **Appendix II**. A synthesis will follow in a form of a table which summarize shadow reports of NGOs (**Appendix III**) and then tables by specific country. (**Appendix IV**).

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations fourth world conference on women was held in Beijing in September 1995 with the theme “Equality, Development and Peace”. The Conference, in the course of its work, adopted by consensus a document entitled “Beijing Declaration and Platform for action”. The document outlined practical measures for the implementation of identified twelve critical areas of concern for achieving equality between men and women. These are:

- **Women and poverty**
- **Education and training of women**
- **Women and health**
- **Violence against women**
- **Women in armed conflict**
- **Women and the economy**
- **Women in power and decision making**
- **Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women**
- **Human rights of women**
- **Women and the media**
- **Women and the environment**
- **The girl-child**

States parties agreed to review the progress made in implementation of the platform for action every 5 years.

Consequently, an extraordinary session of the General Assembly named Beijing+5 was held in New York in June 2000 towards the first review of actions undertaken.

It was recognised by all participants at the extraordinary session that the most effective action for implementation required the ratification by all states of the Convention on all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which identifies measures at legislative, policy and programme levels aimed at achieving equality between men and women whatever their marital status as well as in all aspects of political, social and cultural lives.

The Beijing +5 review meeting came out with a document that reinforced the Beijing Platform for action and identified new strategies for implementation in the next five years. Once again, states agreed to review the document after 5 years, to see the progress made in the identified priority areas.

NGOs involvement in the review process in the West Africa sub-region intends to show areas of progress, obstacles and constraints to implementation and identify priorities and emerging issues for future action.

First part: REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

For all the West African countries, the review showed appreciable progress in most of the critical areas of concern. However, much more efforts need to go into making women's rights more effective and dynamic.

Actions as well as the different strategies needed to achieve progress are presented at the same time as the results achieved.

Many cross-cutting questions emerged in all the areas of concerns, notably:

- The weak gender mainstreaming in planning, programming and budgeting,
- The ascendancy of religious fundamentalism in certain countries which threatens the effective realisation of the objectives of the Beijing platform of action,
- The growing feminisation of poverty which represents a serious hindrance to women's economic empowerment.

Numerous obstacles, difficulties and constraints have prevented progress in those areas where action has been taken.

I - AREAS OF APPRECIABLE PROGRESS

1.1 Education and training

It is well recognised that education is a human right with important implications, not only for the development of the individual, but for the economic and social development of a country. It is an essential means for achieving the objectives of equality, development and peace. Education is the key to all progress.

The objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) among others, seeks to give full primary education to all children, boys and girls alike by the year 2015. In most countries, appreciable progress has been made through improved and new infrastructures, opening of training centres, development and implementation of special projects for the education of the girl child, literacy programmes for women and the development of comprehensive national policies on education and training.

Several strategies have been developed, namely: positive discrimination in favour of girls, setting admission quotas in certain courses of study, granting of scholarships and training of women in science and technology.

These actions indicate a positive willingness to implement the Beijing recommendations.

Appreciable results have been achieved in the following: improvement in the level of girls education, higher level of retention of girls in school, increase in the number of girls taking courses in science and technology.

Girl Schooling Progress¹

Country/ Rating of HDI	Net full time education of girls in primary level				Net full time education of girls in secondary level			
	Rate (%)		In % of male rate		Rate (%)		In % of male rate	
	1998 ²	2001/2002e	1998	2001/2002e	1998	2001/2002e	1998	2001/2002e
Mauritania/152	58	65 g	0,94	0,96 g	-	13 g	-	0,83 g
Gambia/155	57	70 g	0,89	0,92 g	20	24 g	0,72	0,75 g
Senegal/157	54	54	0,84	0,89	-	-	-	-
Guinea/160	37	54	0,69	0,78	7	7 g,j	0,38	0,38 g,j
Benin/161	-	58 g,h	-	0,69 g,h	10	13 f,g	0,46	0,48 f,g
Côte d'Ivoire/163	51	53	0,75	0,74	-	-	-	-
Guinea- Bissau/172	-	38 h	-	0,71 h	-	-	-	-
Mali/174	34	32 g,j	0,70	0,72 g,j	-	-	-	-
Burkina- Faso/175	28	29 g	0,68	0,71 g	6	6 f,g	0,59	0,65 f,g
Niger/176	20	28	0,64	0,68	-	4	-	0,66
Sierra Leone/177	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Togo/143	78	86	0,79	0,84	14	17	0,44	0,48

The efforts of women NGOs in this area are noted. NGOs have carried out awareness raising of the public on the need to send girls to school and literacy for women. They have also advocated for law and policy reform.

In spite of the progress achieved in some areas as mentioned earlier much still needs to be done to overcome the obstacles which impact negatively on the actions taken, namely: inadequate financial resources, sexual discrimination against girls, persistence of sexist stereotypes and socio cultural pressures, sexual harassment in school, inadequate educational infrastructure.

In certain countries, however, educational policies and programmes do not take into account, in a specific manner, the needs of women and the actions taken are often general and do not particularly enhance girls education.

The area which has seen least progress in a number of countries is women's literacy. The burden of domestic work has not allowed women to participate in training activities.

1.2 Women and poverty

Poverty is a complex and endemic cross cutting issue reflected in all sectors.

Globalisation is an important factor in the feminisation of poverty, reinforcing the inequality in the world economic order and limiting women's access and control of international markets.

While several actions and strategies have been developed by states for poverty reduction such as micro credit projects for women, the development of micro finance

¹ **Source:** UNDP, Human Development Report 2004, p. 225-228

e Primary and secondary enrolment of women versus men.

f Data for school years 2000/01.

g Preliminary estimations of the Institute of statistics of UNESCO which should be revised. Data for school years 1998/99.

h Data for school years 1999/2000.

j Data for school years 1998/99.

² UNDP, Human Development Report 2002.

and the establishment of savings and loans schemes for women, almost all countries in the sub region remain in the low levels of development. (see table below)

Economic activity rate of women³

Country/Rating of HDI	Economic activity rate of women		
	Rate (%) 2002	Index (base 100=1990) 2002	In % of male rate 2002
Mauritania/152	63,2	97	74
Gambia/155	69,7	101	78
Senegal/157	61,7	101	72
Guinea/160	77,1	98	89
Benin/161	73,2	96	90
Côte d'Ivoire/163	44	102	51
Guinea-Bissau/172	57	100	63
Mali/174	69,8	97	79
Burkina-Faso/175	74,7	97	85
Niger/176	69,3	99	75
Sierra Leone/177	45	106	54
Togo/143	53,5	101	62

NGOs on their part, have contributed immensely through awareness raising, establishment of micro credit for women and training in management practices.

Nevertheless, these actions have not given women access and control over resources and means and production. Further more, poverty reduction strategies do not always take into account women's specific needs and interests.

The lack of synergy in the different projects started by governments has reduced the results on the ground.

1.3 Women and decision making

Women's equal rights to participate in decision making is not only a question of democracy and good governance but also a necessary condition for effective recognition of women's interests. Without women's involvement at all levels of decision making, the objectives of sustainable equality and development will never be achieved.

In the sub region some countries have adopted affirmative action to encourage women's participation in politics.

The representation of women in decision-making at some levels has improved slightly whilst there has been some increase in women's participation in electoral processes.

Whilst these actions have allowed some progress, the high level of women's illiteracy, the persistent socio-cultural pressures and the lack of ambition by some women has made the expected results illusory and perpetuated the under representation of women at all levels of decision making.

³ Source: UNDP, Human Development Report 2004, p. 229-232.

Here, NGOs work has been mainly in the area of awareness's raising, training sessions for capacity building of women in leadership and advocacy directed at government to improve the position of women in public life.

1.4 Women and health

The right to health is one of the fundamental human rights. The enjoyment of this right is of crucial importance to the lives of women and their well-being. In West African countries sectoral policies and programmes have been developed. Efforts have been made to bring health services closer to the population by setting up health centres.

The adoption of laws and policies have facilitated the implementation of programmes in the area of maternal and child health, family planning, vaccination pre and post natal care etc. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has been recognised as a problem which essentially affects human potential, most especially women, who represent the most vulnerable section of society. This vulnerability is linked on the one hand to their social and legal status and on the other, to their physiological make-up. Some measures have been taken to fight the scourge notably: the setting up of screening centres where services are sometimes free, the availability of anti-retroviral drugs at reduced rates etc. As a result of this there has been an increase in attendance for pre-natal care, coverage of under-five vaccinations has increased, increased awareness of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

These efforts have often been hindered by poverty (*the percentage of public expenses devoted to health care varies between 0,8 and 2,6% of PIB*)⁴ and socio-cultural pressures which reinforce women's vulnerability.

The many factors affecting women's low accessibility to health care services explains in part the persistence of high maternal mortality, especially in the rural areas. Maternal mortality between 480 and 1800 for one hundred thousand births⁵ and rate of qualified staff assisted delivery varies from 16 to 66% depending of the country⁶.

Absence of sex-disaggregated data in the health sector is a real handicap in implementation and effective monitoring of actions.

NGOs are very active in this field through awareness raising campaigns on diseases, hygiene and sanitation for the benefit of women in particular and society as a whole. Some NGOs have set-up medical centres providing services for poor people.

1.5 Violence against women

Violence against women is a violation of the fundamental rights of women. It is an obstacle that hinders the realisation of the objectives of equality development and peace.

⁴ UNDP, 2004. Human Development Report 2004, p. 156-159.

⁵ UNDP, 2004. Human Development Report 2004, p. 168-171.

⁶ UNDP, 2004. Human Development Report 2004, p. 156-159.

Some progress has been recorded in many countries. Actions taken have been mainly in the area of awareness creation and passage of legislation. Whilst most countries in the sub-region have passed laws against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), only a few countries have adopted specific laws on domestic violence or sexual harassment.

On their part, NGOs have concentrated their efforts in creating awareness among the general population on the effects of violence against women, as well as providing legal aid and counselling for women victims.

Other activities have been in the area of creating coalitions to fight violence against women, calling on governments to condemn all acts of violence committed against women and girls as well as advocating for the passage of comprehensive laws on domestic violence.

NGOs have also undertaken activities to train judicial and non judicial actors who intervene in the area of women's rights.

NGOs have also recognised the important role that men can play in the fight against violence and have started targeting men as partners in this regard.

The impact of these actions on the population is often difficult to determine as attitudinal change is often a long drawn-out process. Women continue to be subjected to different forms of violence. Once again, the constraints are the marginalisation of women and girls under culture and tradition, difficulties in implementation of laws and ignorance of women of their rights.

1.6 The girl child

The situation of the girl child continues to be a matter of concern in the sub region. Cases of forced and early marriage, discriminatory socio-cultural practices and sexual violence against the girl child continue to persist. Poverty is also a factor that affects negatively education of the girl child. Despite these problems, some appreciable progress has been recorded in many countries on the issue of the girl child. This has been made possible through the following actions:

- Development of special programmes in the area of education, health and women rights,
- The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- Establishment of national committees for the promotion and protection of children,
- Creation of children's parliament and
- The establishment of centres for children victims of violence are some of the achievements, indicating the priority accorded to the problem of the girl child by governments.

On their part, NGOs have undertaken projects on girl's education. They have also organised awareness raising campaigns and advocated for enrolment and retention of girls in schools, prohibition of early marriage and female genital mutilation.

Trafficking of children, especially the girl child, is an emerging issue in the sub-region which needs the attention of development actors.

II. AREAS OF LEAST PROGRESS

2.1. Women and the media

In spite of accelerated development in information and communication technology, women have not made much progress in this area. Whilst some women have embarked on careers in this sector, very few occupy decision making positions.

The increase in private media, both print and electronic has seen a rise in more women being employed in this sector.

Special newspapers, magazines as well as radio and television programmes are dedicated to women's issues whilst efforts have been made to improve the image of women as portrayed in the media.

While these efforts are laudable, stereotypical images of women still persist in the media. The media sometimes portray women negatively, e.g. through pornographic films and nudity.

On their part NGOS have used the media to raise awareness about women's issues. In a few countries web sites have been created to improve women's visibility. But these actions in the area of information and communication technology have had limited impact on the majority of women due to their high illiteracy level.

2.2. Women and environment

Women have a fundamental role to play in the way in which natural resources are utilised, reproduced and managed in a sustainable manner. In the last few years, some governments have included in their development strategies (*almost every country have ratified the Kyoto Protocol on the climatic changes and on the biological diversity*)*⁷ income generating activities for women as well as providing training in natural resource management and the protection of the environment. The merits of these actions are to limit the damage done as signs of progressive environmental degradation are already evident. In other cases, programmes for environmental protection have contributed to the impoverishment of women, depriving them of their sources of revenue.

The limited progress achieved by states in this area is linked to the fact that:

- The population has not yet acquired a keen sense of the environmental risks that affect women. They ignore the advantages of involving both men and women in the protection of the environment.

⁷ UNDP, 2004. Human Development Report 2004, p. 207-210.

- The limited access of women to resources and technical information prevent them from participating effectively in decision making regarding the environment.
- Re-forestation campaigns, the creation of cooperative for collection of household refuse, the implementation of projects for manufacturing of solar cookers and ovens have not in any way influenced the behaviour of the entire population.

2.3. Women and armed conflict

Peace is inseparable both from equality between the sexes and development. Everywhere in the world, especially in Africa, women become targets of violence in situations of armed conflict.

In the sub region and everywhere else there is conflict, women become the principal victims of human rights violations which manifest in cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment such as rape, sexual harassment, sexual slavery and forced displacement etc.

Efforts have been made by both NGOs and governments to sensitise the population and political actors on the need for a culture of peace and to fight against proliferation of small arms.

There has been progress made in the implementation of effective operational mechanisms for prevention of crises involving women in this area to prevent women and children in particular from becoming targeted victims of conflict.

2.4. Women and Human Rights

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to all human beings including women. The promotion and protection of these rights are the primary responsibility of governments.

With regard to women's human rights, all West African countries have ratified CEDAW even though some did so with reservations. Many of francophone countries have adopted legislation relating to the family (code de la famille). But generally, national laws must be brought in line with international and regional human rights norms. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa adopted by heads of states of African Union in July 2003 has not yet been ratified by any of the countries of the sub region.

Sex-based discrimination and religious fundamentalism continue to compromise women's ability to fully enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms in spite of the existence of certain legal provisions.

The evaluation of the situation reveals that, in many countries, women do not have access to justice because of low level of education and because they are ignorant of their rights.

Other factors affecting women's enjoyment of the rights are the non-application of existing laws, insufficient allocation of resources as well as sexist prejudices.

The poor democratic environment in some countries reinforces discrimination and inequality in rights between men and women.

NGOS have worked to address some of the problems outlined above through the provision of services such as legal aid, training of paralegals, and training of law enforcement agencies, lawyers, judges and traditional rulers. NGO activities also included sensitisation of the general public on women's rights as well as advocating for passage of new legislation and repeal of existing discriminatory laws.

2.5. Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women

The implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action encouraged the setting up or the strengthening of national mechanisms for the advancement of women. These mechanisms are sometimes government departments (ministries departments) which are established as operational structures for achieving the national policies for women's advancement. In some countries, however the machinery is a group of administrative structures at the highest level with the mandate for women's advancement. Whatever their form or status, these mechanism have worked generally towards strengthening the impact of gender equality policies.

The strategy put in place by these structures consists of incorporating gender perspectives into all laws and policies as well as programmes and projects (*the gender index on human development of countries from the sub-region shows that it varies between 0,278 and 0,456*)⁸. These institutional mechanisms have created gender focal points in departments and to a limited extent helped in establishing and disseminating statistical data disaggregated by sex and age.

Lack of adequate human, financial and material resources is the major obstacle facing the mechanisms in a number of countries. Further more, their activities have been hampered by structural problems and communication gaps between the mechanism and other government departments and within the structure itself.

Sometimes, the national mechanisms become the tool for the political party in power which leads to adopting partisan actions that do not benefit all women.

This problem is exacerbated on the one hand by the fact that governments do not have clear understanding of equality between the sexes and the need to ground gender in all aspects of national life and on the other, by the difficulty of the mechanism in integrating women's needs and concerns into sectoral programmes.

III – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

3.1 Challenges

Women's advancement is a major requirement for national development, but faces many challenges in all areas, notably:

- Socio-cultural pressures and practices which hinder women's development in the area of education, training, health etc.

⁸ UNDP, 2004. Human Development Report 2004, p. 217-220.

- Poverty and the low status of women in society which affects their economic and social power, and their access to and control of production resources
- The low level of women's knowledge in the area of information and communication technology
- The weak institutional capacity of national mechanisms
- The low level of women in decision making
- Lack of policies for improving the way women are portrayed in the media
- The lack of gender mainstreaming in all areas
- The poor culture of democracy and good governance in some countries which threatens peace
- Lack of adequate knowledge and information on international human rights instruments and national laws relating to women's rights
- Inadequate political will and commitment to implement actions

3.2. Opportunities

In the face of the numerous challenges raised, States, NGOs and the international community should seize all opportunities for improving results in all the priority areas for women in West Africa.

For effective recognition of women's problems, it is a matter of seizing opportunities presented in other international plans of actions such as the Social Summit, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Millennium Development Goals.

At the regional level, the involvement of the African Union in the fight for parity between men and women, gender mainstreaming in all AU structures, policies and programmes, the adoption and implementation of NEPAD would allow gender equality to be achieved.

In the sub region, the adoption of a gender policy and the setting up of a gender unit within ECOWAS is an opportunity to take advantage of. Experience gained by women in civil society on the ground should be taken into account in regional and national plans for the advancement of the status of women.

Second part: PERSPECTIVES

Some appreciable progress has been made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by States in the sub-region. While appreciating the result achieved, women organisations believe that the results are not at the level expected by women and do not reflect the resources put into implementation; for example in the fight against poverty. In a general manner, actions have remained at level of policies and adoption of laws whilst practical implementation is still inadequate.

I – GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants identified seven priority areas for the attention of governments in the next five years. These are:

1. Poverty and economic empowerment
2. Decision making
3. Health including HIV/AIDS and reproductive health
4. Violence including trafficking of women and children
5. Education of women
6. Peace and security
7. The girl child

The following general recommendations were also made:

- Commit more resources for implementation of policies. In fact, policies have been adopted, but few resources are committed for their implementation
- Integration of gender into programme planning and budgeting
- Enforce the principle of democracy, good governance and transparency as tools for development
- Systematic allocation of public resources to strengthen the capacity of NGOs
- Allocate resources under the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative to women's work where applicable.

GOVERNMENT

- Adopt affirmative action to increase women's participation in politics
- Depoliticise national machineries and structures for implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

- Strengthening of NGOs capacity is an important priority and resources should be set aside for that purpose.

II. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the identified priority areas are presented below

2.1. Poverty

Women's NGOs recognise the efforts made in the fight against women's poverty. However, in spite of these efforts women and girls constitute the majority of persons living below the poverty line in the countries. Inequalities still persist in regard to women's access to and control over resources and means of production such as land, credit, technology and knowledge and information on modern methods of production.

To this effect, West African NGOs recommend the following:

- Adoption of a people centred macro economic framework
- Facilitating access to and control of rural women to means of production
- Adopting policies and programmes for strengthening women's capacity.
- Creating enabling conditions for women to master the new information and communication technology.
- Creating enabling environment for the development of activities of women in the informal sector.
- Creating enabling conditions for access to and control of resources by women for development of women enterprises.

2.2. The persistent under representation of women in politics

- Adopt affirmative action policies for increasing women's participation in politics and the public sector
- Review socio-cultural practices that inhibit women's participation in decision making at all levels.

2.3. Women's health

- Facilitate HIV positive women's access to anti-retroviral drugs at a subsidised cost.
- Set up maternal and child health centres offering free services.
- Adopt and implement laws and policies on reproductive health rights.

- Adopt laws and policies for the treatment of vesico vaginal fistula (VVF).
- Take preventive measures for control and treatment of malaria.

2.4. Women's human rights including violence and trafficking in women and girls

Women's rights are human rights. They are inalienable, indivisible and interdependent. Consequently, human rights are the basis for the Beijing platform for action.

Violence is a violation of women's rights and therefore is an obstacle to the development and the realisation of the full potential of women in West Africa.

To this effect, the following recommendations are made:

- Withdrawal of all reservations made to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the domestication of the provisions for effective implementation.
- Ratification and effective implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's rights on the Rights of women in Africa
- Repeal all existing discriminatory laws and other harmful traditional practices.
- Adopt specific laws against FGM by countries which have not yet done so and insure their effective implementation.
- Adopt laws against trafficking in women and children and ensure the punishment of the traffickers and protection of victims.
- Adopt comprehensive laws against all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual harassment.
- Strengthen the capacity of NGOs working in the area of women's rights.

2.5. Peace and security

An environment which ensures peace and security is an important element in improving the situation of women and girls.

Women and girls constitute the majority of targeted victims in situations of armed conflict. They are victims of all sorts of violence. To this end, the following recommendations are made:

- Continue to involve women in conflict prevention and management
- Undertake educational programmes on the role of citizens in conflict prevention

- Adopt laws to punish violence against women and girls during conflict and post conflict situations.
- Establish trauma centres for treatment of victims of violence.
- Institute and strengthen democracy and good governance in order to ensure peace and security.

2.6. Women's education: a pre condition for development

Education is a human right and essential for the full realisation of women's potential and the economic and social development of a country. In this regard, the following recommendations are made:

- Allocate adequate resources for effective implementation of all policies and programmes for improved quality education.
- Adopt special programmes and allocate resources for the training of women.
- Introduce gender concerns into training programmes and curricula.

2.7. The Girl Child

The young girl of today is the woman of tomorrow. Young girls are often treated as inferior to boys of the same age. This results in discrimination against them.

In this regard, the following recommendations are made:

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child
- Institute mechanisms for the alleviation of domestic burden placed on young girls.
- Encourage the enrolment and education of the girl child.
- Eliminate all forms of exploitation against the girl child
- Take measures to prevent and protect the girl child from sexual violence and trafficking.

APPENDIXES



APPENDIX 1 : LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL NGO

COUNTRY	FAMILY AND FIRST NAME	Organisation	Address
BÉNIN	AGBOTON Chantal Gisèle Anne-Marie	GAJES / WILDAF/FeDDAF –Bénin	Tél : (229) 30 69 92 /02 29 19 giseleagb@yahoo.fr wildaf-b@intnet.bj
	Huguette BOKPE GNACADJA	WiLDAF/FeDDAF / AFBJ	hugbok@yahoo.fr Tel : (229) 07 30 31 / 94 24 88 / 33 05 85
BURKINA	Clémentine OUOBA	Formation des femmes dans les ONG / Associations du Burkina Faso (RECIF/ONG-BF / représentant les ONG du Burkina	01 BP 62 73 Ouagadougou 01 Tél. : 00226 50 31 22 25 recif@fasonet.bf Tél. : 00226 50 38 03 07 ouoba.c@liptinfor.bf
COTE D'IVOIRE	Rachelle K. GOGOUA	Représentante des ONG ivoiriennes Coalition des femmes leaders	22 BP. 13 16 Abidjan 22 t Tél./fax 00225 22 44 36 14 cel 07 73 34 56 rgogoua1@caramail.com
GAMBIA	Aminata SILLAH SARR	WOOD, the Gambia	Tél. : 43 93 177 (travail) 43 94 788 (maison) mobil 981 828 sillasi@hotmail.com
GHANA	Ecoma ALAGA	WANEP Régional Secrétariat Accra	Box. CT 4434 Cantonment Tél. : 233 221 318 / cel.233 24 470 90 95 wanep@wanep.org
	Patricia BLANKSON AKAKPO	Network for women's rights in Ghana (Netright)	c/o twN Africa POBox 19452 Accra North –Ghana netright@twnafrica.org / triciaakakpo@yahoo.com tel. 233 21 51 11 39 / 500 419 / 50 36 69 cel 233 24 452 79 67
MALI	SOYATA MAÏGA Association des juristes maliennes	Représentante des Associations et ONG du Mali	BP. 238 Bamako Mali Tél. (233) 221 01 46 / 673 89 89 cabinet-soya@afribone.net.ni
NIGER	Salamatou TRAORE	Coordination des ONG et Associations féminines du Niger	BP 11 400 Niamey Niger Tel. : 00227 75 44 64 / 75 36 18 (bur.) 00227 75 27 25 (dom) Cel 00227 96 55 68 congafen@intnet.ne ongdimol@intnet.ne



COUNTRY	FAMILY AND FIRST NAME	Organisation	Address
NIGERIA	Grâce OSAKUE	Girl's Power Initiative (GPI) Network for the Domestication of CEDAW, Edo State, Nigeria	P.O.Box 7400 Bénin City Nigeria gpibenin@gpigeria.org edocedawnet@yahoo.com Tél. : (234) 52 25 51 62 (234) 805 5109 300
	Bisi OLATERU-OLAGBEGI	Women Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON)	13 Okesuna street off Igboere Road Lagos Nigeria Tél. : 234 1 26 36 300 / 331 234 80 333 47 896
SENEGAL	Safietou DIOP	Comité national de coordination de l'évaluation de Beijing +10 par les ONG du Sénégal Point focal Sénégal	Safidiop2000@yahoo.fr congad@sentoo.sn Tél. : 221 - 824 41 16 cel. 221 - 636 23 65
	NDEYE Mariane THIOYE	FDEA	BP 3921 Dakar fdea@sentoo.sn tel. 221- 825 20 58 / 824 71 53 fax 221 825 42 87
	NDEYE Maty NDOYE	Réseau genre CONGAD /coordination comité nationale sur l'évaluation de Beijing+10	BP. 50 20 Dakar use@sentoo.sn congad@sentoo.sn Tél. : 824 67 96 / 824 41 16
TOGO	Michèle EKUE	CCOFT /REFAMP	Tél. : s/c (228) 222 49 25
	Brigitte AGUIGAH	WILDAF Togo /ASFEEN	Tel. (00228) 225 95 69 / 902 58 53 qitaaguiqah@yahoo.fr
	TATEY Adzoavi N. Berthe	ALAFIA Représentante des ONG du Togo	BP 8003 Tél. : (228) 901 89 24 / 251 03 51 alafia_togo@yahoo.fr
	Claudine AHIANYO KPONDZO	WANEP-Togo	Tél. : 220 62 79 / 916 38 24 waneptogo@yahoo.fr
	Massan d'Almeida	Association des femmes Africaines pour la recherche et le développement (AFARD)	BP 30 888 Wuiti, Lomé-Togo Tél. : / fax 228 226 62 25 Cel. 228 926 27 80 afardtogo@laposte.tg afardtogo@caramail.com

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM SUB REGIONAL NGO

COUNTRY	NAME	ORGANISATIONS	Address
Ghana	Dorcas Coker-Appiah	Gender Studies Human Rights Documentation centre	P.O.Box ANG 192, Accra North Ghana Tél. : 233 21 26 06 88 Fax 233 21 26 06 87 Frema75@hotmail.com
	Ecoma Alaga	WANEP Regional Secretariat Accra	
	Sara KYEI	African Women's Development Fund	Aviation house, road, PMB CT 89, Cantonments, Accra, Ghana awdf@awdf.org
	Ndey JOBARTEH	African Women's Development Fund	
Mali	ALWATA ICHATA SAHI	General secretary of West Africa (OPF)	

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SUB REGION FOR THE ORGANISATION OF THE FORUM

1. Togo	Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson	Coordinator WILDAF West Africa	Angle rues Georges Mensah/ Khra, Hanoukopé, Lomé, Togo Tel . 00228 222 26 79 Fax 00228 222 73 90 wildaf@cafe.tg www.wildaf-ao.org
2. Mali	Fatoumata Siré Diakité	AIFF / CATW – Afrique	Coordinatrice pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest du Comité d'organisation du forum des ONG sur Beijing + 10 BP. E 787 Bamako, Mali Tél. / fax (223) 229 10 28 apdf@datatech.toolnet.org

ORGANISATION TEAM FROM WILDAF/FEDDAF WEST AFRICA

COUNTRY	NAME AND FIRST NAME	Organisation	Address
TOGO	Adjamagbo-Johnson, Kafui Kuwonu, Kafui Ajavon, Béatrice Lelièvre, Colette Odah, Denise	WILDAF/FeDDAF-West Africa	Angle rues Georges Mensah/ Khra, Hanoukopé, Lomé Tel . 00228 222 26 79 Fax 00228 222 73 90 wildaf@cafe.tg

THE SUB REGIONAL CONSULTANT

TOGO	Célestine Aïdam	General Secretary of GF2D	Angle rues Georges Mensah/ Khra, Hanoukopé, Lomé Tel . 00228 222 49 25 Fax 00228 222 49 26
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APPENDIX II: WEST AFRICA NGOs AND NETWORKS MEETING ON BEIJING+10 SYNTHESIS OF DELIBERATIONS OF 26 AND 27 AUGUST 2004

Within the framework of the preparation of NGO Forum and the 7th African Regional Conference on Women about Beijing+10, a workshop of West Africa NGOs and networks was held at Hotel CIFEX Lomé, Togo on 26 and 27 August 2004. Organised by WiLDAF/FeDDAF West Africa (WASRO), this meeting has had the financial support of the Global Fund for Women, African Women Development Fund, UNIFEM, UNICEF and UNFPA.

In attendance were participants from the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo; the following networks and regional organisations: Association Internationale des Femmes Francophones, OPF, WANEP and AAWORD. Two representatives of the African Women Development Fund were also in attendance.

The overall objective was to summarise the contents of NGO national reports in order to develop the sub-regional assessment report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Deliberations of 26 August and outcomes

Three interventions marked the opening ceremony:

- Welcome address by the West Africa sub-regional Coordinator of WiLDAF/FeDDAF
- Remarks by the President of the WiLDAF/FeDDAF Executive Board
- Opening address by the Minister of Social Affairs, Women Promotion and Childhood Protection

In her welcome address to the participants from various countries and to Togolese officials who graced the opening ceremony with their presence, the sub-regional WiLDAF/FeDDAF Coordinator emphasised the importance of this meeting on the Beijing Platform for Action.

In her remarks, the President of the WiLDAF/FeDDAF Executive Board presented a brief background of major conferences on women. While deploring the difficulties of collaboration between non governmental organisations and governments, she stressed the importance of building and strengthening partnership between Governments and NGOs.

On behalf of the government, the Minister of Social Affairs, Women Promotion and Childhood Protection expressed in her opening address the pride of Togo in hosting this important meeting of West African civil society organisations on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. She recalled the objectives of the workshop and promised the support of Togo during the 7th African Regional Conference on Women in Addis Ababa to defend the viewpoints that the representatives will express. She ended her speech by expressing her gratitude to partners who supported the organisation of this meeting (namely the Global Fund for Women, UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNFPA and the African Women's Development Fund).

The introduction to the actual deliberations consisted of inter alia:

- Introduction of participants
- Adoption of the amended agenda
- Presentation of the meeting objectives which were summed up as follows:
 - Conduct a common and independent assessment of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in West Africa based on the NGO national reports.
 - Define in a consensual manner for the next five years the priority areas for the sub-region and strategies to improve the Beijing Action Platform.
 - Prepare West African NGOs participation in the 7th Regional Conference of October 2004 and NGO Forum.

The sub-regional coordinator for West Africa indicated the process started at a consultative meeting organised by ECA for the civil society organisations in Addis Ababa on 22-23 July. She also indicated how the reports were to be prepared.

Information:

- The dates of the forum and the 7th conference are 6 - 7 October and 8 - 15 October;
- The 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Extraordinary Assembly of the United Nations on Beijing +10 will be held from 28 February to 12 March 2005;
- The topic of the NGO Forum: «Women's rights are human rights»;
- How the forum will be organised;
- The participation (criteria for the appointment of the participants on the basis of 5 per country. 300 organisations are expected.).

The NGO and Network representatives from 10 countries presented substance of their national reports while notifying that the timeframe for preparing the report was very short.

After the presentations, it was acknowledged that women NGOs should work in collaboration with governments for the socio-economic and political development of our countries.

Similarities emerged with respect to the activities carried out by NGOs in the critical areas as well as results achieved.

Despite efforts made by States and by NGOs to improve women's status, progress is not very noticeable. There is still the need to take action towards the reinforcement of actions. The pooling of group work findings to:

- Bring out the areas of big progress, noticeable progress and little or no progress;
- Difficulties/constraints, obstacles encountered;
- Priority areas for the future.

1°) From this, we can affirm through arguments that for more than half of the areas little progress (LP) was made. The remaining areas recorded very little progress (VLP).

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Women and poverty | LP |
| 2. Women and decision-making | LP |
| 3. Women and violence | LP |
| 4. Women and health | LP |
| 5. Women and rights | LP |
| 6. Women and education/training | LP |
| 7. Women and conflicts | (VLP) |
| 8. Women and environment | (VLP) |
| 9. Women and media | (VLP) |

2°) Difficulties / constraints /obstacles

- Lack of commitment
- Lack of political will
- Socio-cultural pressures
- Inadequacy of resources
- Fundamentalism (rise)
- Illiteracy
- Ignorance of laws
- Multiplicity of sources of law
- Existence of gap in the law in some areas such as domestic violence
- Macro socio-economic context very difficult

3°) Priority for future

Participants came out with the following priorities:

1. Poverty
2. Decision-making
3. Health including reproductive health and HIV/AIDS
4. Violence including trafficking of women and children
5. Women education
6. Peace and security
7. Young girl

Conclusion: The good group dynamics enabled participants to share the contents of their country reports and the issues at stakes.

Summary of 27 August 2004 deliberations

The day's programme was focussed on the following items:

- Presentation and amendment of the minutes of the first day deliberations
- Identification and formulation of recommendations:
 - General recommendations
 - Specific recommendations towards governments, NGOs
 - Recommendations per priority area
- Plenary sessions were held after the group work

- Discussion were also held on visibility of NGOs at:
 1. The African NGO Forum
 2. The CSW session and the UN Assembly on Beijing+10
 3. And the strategies for resource mobilisation.

Seven (7) topics were selected for workshops at the forum and organisations assigned for coordinating the workshops:

1. Poverty: FDEA, FAO, CFELCI (CI)
2. Conflict, peace and security: WANEP
3. Women and Child trafficking: CATW-Africa –Benin, RECIF – BF, VOCOM/NATIVA
4. Education: Senegal, Burkina Faso, (RIOF), Togo
5. Decision-making: AIFF, AJM
6. The young girl: GPI Nigeria
7. Protocol: WiLDAF/FeDDAF-WASRO, AFJCJ, Equality now

The detailed recommendations are compiled in a separate document.

After a press conference conducted by Mrs Kafui ADJAMAGBO-JOHNSON and Mrs Dorcas COKER-APPIAH, the report of the workshop was amended and adopted. The deliberations ended with an assessment of the workshop. A communiqué was adopted and is attached.

Clémentine OUOBA
Representative of Burkina Faso Women NGOs

Brigitte AGUIGA
ASFEEN (WiLDAF/FeDDAF Togo)

Berthe TATEY
ALAFIA NGO – Togo

APPENDIX III: SYNTHESIS TABLE OF SHADOW REPORTS BY NGOS

AREA OF NOTICEABLE PROGRESS	AREAS OF LITTLE PROGRESS	DIFFICULTIES OBSTACLES AND CONSTRAINTS	FUTURE PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>EDUCATION TRAINING</u></p> <p>1. <u>Relevant actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sensitisation on young girl schooling and women literacy • young girl schooling and women literacy support project • stakeholders training in gender • reinforcement of existing school facilities • establishment of new training centres <p>2. <u>Strategies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adoption of national education policy • development of plan of action in favour of girls • development of ten-year programme for basic education • allocation of scholarship to girls (positive discrimination) <p>3. <u>Results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvement of girl education rate • improvement of girl retention rate • improvement of enrolment rate for girls in technical and scientific courses 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of resources • socio-cultural heaviness • poverty • qualitative inadequacy of teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change of mentalities • reinforcement of «vocational training schools» 	

AREA OF NOTICEABLE PROGRESS	AREAS OF LITTLE PROGRESS	DIFFICULTIES OBSTACLES AND CONSTRAINTS	FUTURE PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p><u>WOMEN AND POVERTY</u></p> <p>1. <u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of a strategic framework for poverty control • improvement of women access to credit • capacity building of women in management • development of micro-projects for women <p>2. <u>Strategies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of micro finance • establishment of micro credit structures for women • development of savings bank and credit networks (Yélé Mali in Mali) <p>3. <u>Results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvement of women access to micro credits and women entrepreneurship • increase of savings and credit groupings and cooperatives 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inadequacy of internal savings • lack of financial resources • non mastering of modern management methods by women • women illiteracy • women non access to land property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote women access to inputs • increase women cost-effectiveness and productivity • promote women financial autonomy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve land reforms for women • develop communication channels for products
<p><u>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adoption of law against female genital mutilations • sensitisation campaigns on violence against women • setting up of committees for fighting against violence • establishment of legal assistance centres 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socio-cultural heaviness • poverty • coexistence of customary and modern law • lack of specific texts punishing violence against women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socio-cultural heaviness • high illiteracy rate • lack of ambition from women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extension of CEDAW • promotion of peace culture

AREA OF NOTICEABLE PROGRESS	AREAS OF LITTLE PROGRESS	DIFFICULTIES OBSTACLES AND CONSTRAINTS	FUTURE PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WOMEN AND DECISION MAKING</u></p> <p>1. <u>Actions carried out</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capacity building of women in leadership • sensitisation campaign • advocacy for better positioning of women • establishment of the women Minister and Parliamentarian network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socio-cultural heaviness • high illiteracy rate • lack of ambition from women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • change of mentalities • make effective the positive discrimination and quota principle 	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WOMEN AND MEDIA</u></p> <p>1. <u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appointment of some women to decision making positions • women presence in private media • development of radio and TV broadcasts aimed at issues relating to women • creation of a web site for a better image of women <p>2. <u>Results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvement of women's image 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women illiteracy • socio-cultural heaviness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arouse women promotion to decision making positions 	

AREA OF NOTICEABLE PROGRESS	AREAS OF LITTLE PROGRESS	DIFFICULTIES OBSTACLES AND CONSTRAINTS	FUTURE PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>HUMAN RIGHTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ratification of CEDAW and basic instruments relating to human rights by the States • promotion of gender equality in electoral code • sensitisation and training in human rights and women's rights by NGOs • training of paralegals • creation of legal assistance centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non application of existing laws in favour of women • right ignorance by women • poor democratisation of countries • illiteracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mobilise justice in favour of those who are victim of violence • reinforce laws on child and young girl trafficking 	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WOMEN AND HEALTH</u></p> <p>1. <u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adoption of laws relating to FGM • development of typical law in reproduction health • implementation of immunisation and neonatal follow-up programme • HIV/AIDS control programme • sensitisation campaign on breastfeeding <p>2. <u>Results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase in neonatal consultation and immunisation coverage rates • population awareness on STD HIV/AIDS dangers • improvement of women and children access to primary health care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low participation of women in health management structures • lack of human and financial resources • persistence of harmful traditional practices (early, forced marriage...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reinforce the sensitisation campaigns to fight against socio-cultural heaviness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvement of women legal and social status • reinforcement of free of charge anti-virus provision to most destitute • reinforcement of sensitisation on HIV/AIDS

AREA OF NOTICEABLE PROGRESS	AREAS OF LITTLE PROGRESS	DIFFICULTIES OBSTACLES AND CONSTRAINTS	FUTURE PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p><u>WOMEN AND ENVIRONMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manufacturing and commercialisation of improved fireboxes • reforestation campaign • establishment of cooperatives for waste collection • plastic waste retrieval • experimentation of solar stoves and ovens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • population poor awareness of environmental problems • reforestation campaign • establishment of cooperatives for waste collection • plastic waste retrieval • experimentation of solar stoves and ovens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review environment policy in Gender perspective • reinforce sensitisation on environment 	
	<p><u>ARMED CONFLICTS</u></p> <p>1. <u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education and sensitisation of population and political parties on Peace culture • control of small weapons proliferation <p>2. <u>Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continuous advocacy for peace • training on conflict settlement techniques 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop peace culture • ratify the moratorium 	

AREA OF NOTICEABLE PROGRESS	AREAS OF LITTLE PROGRESS	DIFFICULTIES OBSTACLES AND CONSTRAINTS	FUTURE PRIORITIES & CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>THE GIRL CHILD</u></p> <p>1. <u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ratification of the Convention relating to children rights • setting up of national committees for childhood protection and promotion • establishment of children parliament • establishment of committees for the reception and rehabilitation of children victims of trafficking • development of childhood promotion and protection programme • partnership of NGOs with governments in the control of child trafficking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persistence of socio-cultural heaviness • persistence of poverty • lack of young childhood training policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct a research action in the short term • reinforce disabled girl protection • reinforce the management structure for disabled children especially girls. 	