

Towards Beijing +10 : Which Way Southern Africa?

A Report on the
SADC Gender and Women's Empowerment NGO Focal Points
Working Session on
Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
held on 25 April 2004
Lusaka, Zambia

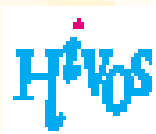


TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	3
ACRONYMS.....	4
1.0 BACKGROUND.....	5
2.0 KEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	5
3.0 PROCESS REPORT.....	6
3.1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.....	6
3.1.2 WHY WE ARE HERE – WIDSAA HEAD OF PROGRAMME.....	8
3.2 PRESENTATION BY UNECA REPRESENTATIVE.....	8
3.3 EXPECTATIONS AND AGREEMENT ON MODALITIES.....	9
3.4 ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES, CONSTRAINTS AND.....	10
OPPORTUNITIES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BPFA AND THE SADC DECLARATION ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT.....	10
3.5 PLENARY DISCUSSION.....	11
4.0 GROUP WORK.....	12
4.6 PLENARY DISCUSSION.....	20
5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	20
7.0 CLOSING REMARKS.....	20
ANNEX I COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS.....	22
ANNEX II - COMMUNIQUE.....	33
ANNEX III – DISTRIBUTION OF GROUPS.....	49
ANNEX IV – PARTICIPANTS LIST.....	50
ANNEX V - ABOUT THE COLLABORATING PARTNERS.....	53
ANNEX VI PROGRAMME FOR THE MEETING.....	54
ANNEX VII – EVALUATION RESULTS.....	<u>558</u>
ANNEX VIII – MEDIA ARTICLES.....	559

Acknowledgement

A report like this is as a result of collective work by various individuals and organizations. The Southern African Research and Documentation Centre, Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (SARDC WIDSAA) would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the SADC Gender and Women's Empowerment NGO Focal Points Working Session, at Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia on 25th April 2004, as well as their valuable contribution in the UNECA/SADC Beijing +10 sub regional review meeting held from 27 to 29 April 2004..

Deserving special mention is the southern Africa regional office of the Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries (HIVOS), main sponsor for the working session and the participation of the NGO Gender Focal Points to the southern African Sub-Regional Meeting for the decade review of the BPFA, held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 26 to 29 April 2004. The southern Africa regional office of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM-SARO) also deserve special mention for contributing to the sponsorship of the working session.

Special thanks is also extended to the Non-Governmental Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC) for Gender and Development in Zambia, who accepted to co-host the working session at short notice.

The services of the rapporteur for the working session, Patricia Daka Jere and the core group that drafted the communiqué Patricia Made, Bella Matambandzo, Rabbecca Muna, Matrine Chuulu, Pamela Mhlanga, Barbara Lopi are also greatly appreciated. The journalists who publicised and meetings including its outcomes through media coverage are equally appreciated.

It is our hope that this spirit of collaboration continues as it is critical to the sustenance of the momentum to push the southern African regional gender and agenda into the post Beijing +10 era.

SARDC WIDSAA
15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: (263 4) 791141
Fax (263 4) 791271
Email: widsaa@sardc.net
Web site: www.sardc.net

Information access is a key strategic resource for socio-economic development

ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CWD	Committee on Women and Development
DAW	Division for Advancement of Women
HIV	Human Immuno deficiency Virus
HIVOS	Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NGOCC	Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council for Gender and Development
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SARDC	Southern African Research and Documentation Centre
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WIDSAA	Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness
WiLDAF	Women in Law and Development for Africa
WLSA	Women and Law in Southern Africa Research Trust

1.0 BACKGROUND

Momentum is steadily rising again in southern Africa as the end of the United Nations (UN) decade for women and the count down to the global review of achievements of the decade in 2005 nears.¹ During the UN 23rd General Assembly Special Session on Beijing +5, governments unanimously agreed to regularly assess further implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA).² This was done with the view of bringing together all parties involved in 2005 to assess progress and consider new initiatives, as appropriate, 10 years after the adoption of the BPFA and 20 years after the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies.

There is general consensus that processes to review progress and chart the way forward for the next decade need to be held the world over. The processes should lead to a stronger focus on the implementation and impacts, sharing of experiences and good practices, identification of gaps and challenges, increased political will and clear commitments from governments.

The activities to support the preparatory process towards the 2005 review of progress in advancing the empowerment of women and promoting gender equality and what happens thereafter are in progress. The Africa review of progress in achieving the BPFA is rapidly approaching (October 2004). In light of this, a sub-regional meeting to review progress by Southern African Development Community (SADC) in achieving the Beijing commitments was convened by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Lusaka, Zambia, from 26 – 29 April 2004 (the April Meeting). This initiative took place with the support of SADC.

The main goal of this meeting was to debate, agree on and document progress, challenges and constraints in achieving the Beijing commitments, as well as develop a future agenda. Governments in SADC are also preparing national reports that document their progress in realizing the Beijing commitments. Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are, parallel to this, expected to produce shadow reports, or alternatively make concrete inputs into the national reports. NGOs in southern Africa have been instrumental in the advancement of the gender agenda, with more governments relying on the information, input, and articulation of issues by NGOs in order to have a valid national picture on the progress and situation of women since Beijing.

Since NGOs were on the agenda to make an input in the April meeting from their perspective, SARDC-WIDSAA and the Non Governmental Organisations' Coordinating Council for Gender and Development (NGOCC), with funding from the Southern African Regional Offices for the Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (HIVOS) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), convened a one-day working session on the 25th April 2004, to consolidate the NGO position and make a strategic input into the main April Meeting from 26 – 29 April 2004.

2.0 KEY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Whereas some SADC member states have made some progress towards gender equality and gender mainstreaming, disparities between women and men still exist in the areas of legal rights, power-sharing and decision-making, access to and control over productive resources, education and health, and women still constitute the majority of the poor. Although efforts to integrate

¹ SARDC - WIDSAA (Southern African Research and Documentation Centre, Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness)

² *ibid*

gender considerations in SADC sectoral programs and projects have not sufficiently mainstreamed gender in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, the meeting noted that some milestone and achievements have been made in the region including: –

- Policy development and commitment by SADC
- Establishment of gender focal points in some countries and Ministries responsible for women's affairs in others
- The adoption and signing of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development and the Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children
- Development and Adoption of National Gender Policies
- Positive legislative developments to protect the rights of women

Common constraints included the application of dual system of laws, negative portrayal of gender issues by the media, lack of capacity in government to effectively mainstream gender, lack of political will, negative customary beliefs and practices, poor implementation of laws and policies, and non-domestication of international instruments by governments in the region. Common national problems range from prevalence of domestic violence, gender-based violence, inequality between men and women in accessing credit facilities, decision-making positions, and sexual, physical and psychological abuse of girls.

HIV and AIDS, legal and cultural barriers, high rate of illiteracy among women, putting unpaid work on the political agenda and girl-child pregnancies pose major challenges for governments and NGOs within the region. Opportunities identified by the meeting are, among others, constitutional, legal and policy reforms, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Targets, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development and the Addendum.

- The meeting recommended the following: The SADC Gender declaration should be adopted as a Protocol to give it legally binding force. The international community should declare a decade for women.
- Governments should, within their respective education policies de-register or bar from practising, any teaching professional that abuses or defiles a child.
- It is governments' obligation to develop policies and enact legislations that guarantee women and children's rights and prioritises the issues of gender and poverty
- Governments should use the constitutional, legal and policy reforms in the region to repeal all discriminatory laws and practices that hinder gender equality and prevent the full enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedom by women
- The 30% affirmative action for women in decision-making positions should be increased to 50% and should be attained by all Governments by the year 2005.
- Governments should domesticate international instruments to which they are party.

A more comprehensive communiqué, based on the proceedings and outcomes from the one-day working session was prepared and presented to the main meeting on 27 April 2004 as the NGOs input. The communiqué is annexed to this report.

3.0 PROCESS REPORT

3.1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting opened with the singing of the Zambian National Anthem.

3.1.1 WELCOME REMARKS BY NGOCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GRACE KANYANGA

Ms Kanyanga's welcome remarks are reproduced hereunder verbatim:

"The Head of Program, Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness Program (WIDSAA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the representatives from the SADC region, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen: I wish to welcome you all to our beautiful and friendly country which is commonly referred to as 'Zambia the real Africa'. It is my sincere hope that you all had a comfortable flight to our country and that you are enjoying your stay so far.

As you are aware, Africa will join the rest of the world in reviewing progress made towards the implementation of the platform for Africa 10 years after Beijing.

As you are also aware, in the year 2000, the Beijing +5 Review meeting was held in New York preceded by the 6th Africa Regional Conference in Addis Ababa in order to review progress made in Africa. We are now on the eve of 10 years after the Beijing Conference, indeed 10 years in September since the 5th African Regional Conference on women when we agreed on the African Platform of Action. Our Governments agreed to regularly assess further progress made in implementing the Platform of Action. Time is now ripe to do so.

The purpose of this meeting is therefore, as civil society organisations to prepare for strategic input into the Southern Africa decade review meeting on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 10) which takes place from April 26- 29, 2004 right here at Pamodzi Hotel. This working session is being hosted in collaboration with the NGO Coordinating Council and Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness Programme.

This meeting therefore, has been convened particularly for the purposes of:

1. Information flow, as this is lacking unlike during the preparatory process for the Beijing conference.
2. There is a controversy on the form in which the Beijing + 10 Review process should take.

Therefore, we are here to determine our Agenda in terms of influencing the outcome of the review meeting in 2005.

The objectives of the Sub-Regional Review meeting are as follows:

1. To assess the progress made in mainstreaming gender in sectoral development policies and programmes
2. To assess the sustainability of political will and political commitment to gender equality
3. To assess the specific impact of major external factors on the status of women
4. To assess the level of interaction between governments and women's civil society organisations, and
5. To build consensus on gender-related priority areas of concern in the sub-regions for the next 5 years.

One major issue that the African countries committed themselves to, was the issue of gender mainstreaming as a means of achieving gender equality and equity. In my view, we need to re-examine this concept as it has had a negative aspect on women's empowerment. What therefore needs to be put in place to ensure that the ultimate, which is women's empowerment, is achieved?

I am very confident that the SADC women gathered here today will be able to put in place concrete and workable mechanisms of influencing the sub-regional review meeting which starts tomorrow. As we have always done.

Again not to waste much of your time, I wish to extend a warm welcome to our friends who have travelled and the local women to make the most of the day. I wish all of us fruitful deliberations.”

3.1.2 WHY WE ARE HERE – WIDSAA HEAD OF PROGRAM, MS PAMELA MHLANGA

Ms Mhlanga welcomed the participants and expressed her gratitude for being accorded the opportunity to co-chair the meeting. She noted that although some members were not represented, other key participants addressing issues on gender and empowerment were present such as WLSA, WiDAF and Women in Land and Water Rights, and would make fruitful contributions to the meeting.

She said that it was critical for the participants to focus on issues related to the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) so as to define an agenda for the future. She observed that the NGO representatives had been carefully selected on the premise that they are able to speak and are affected by issues of the BPFA. She went further as to acknowledge the assistance from HIVOS and other cooperating partners such as UNIFEM who provide help for NGO activities on a wide range of issues affecting women. Ms Mhlanga urged the NGOs to contribute effectively and raise issues impacting on coordination in order to strategize and lay a firm foundation for the future of women. To that end, she emphasized the need to document the experiences over the decade.

She informed the participants that the main objective of the meeting was to take stock of what NGOs and governments have done after Beijing.

The Agenda for the meeting called for a critical self-evaluation so as to identify what the challenges for NGOs and governments have been; what the opportunities are and whether the opportunities have been effectively utilised. Women must determine their future because they know and have ideas of what they want their future to be. One of the key objectives she highlighted was the need to make input into the governmental meeting which would constitute governments from within the region, inter governmental agencies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and UN agencies that provide a rich environment for the NGO input.

In closing, she remarked that there are three challenges for the NGOs:

- whether women have been able to put their ideas together as key leaders,
- what the strategies and, the approaches to addressing issues of gender equality are, and
- gender mainstreaming and the use of a rights based approach.

She questioned whether the strategies have yielded results for NGOs. She encouraged the participants to find out why some strategies have not worked and to seek alternative strategies. She said that while civil society maintains a strong will, a number of NGOs have not been able to implement programs due to financial constraints. The challenge was therefore whether NGOs have the kind of resource base needed to get things moving; the resource is shrinking; hence it was pertinent to reflect on this challenge.

3.2 PRESENTATION BY UNECA REPRESENTATIVE, HANNAH TIAGHA

Ms Tiagha informed the participants that activities towards Beijing +10 were happening within a global framework of which the review process of the implementation of the BPFA in Africa constitutes a part. From its mandate of monitoring and evaluation, and in conformity with the Beijing Platform, the UNECA is coordinating activities within the Africa region. It operates as an intergovernmental facility for coordination and provides the secretariat to the ECA Statutory Committee on Women and Development.

Of relevance to the meeting, she pointed out that the Committee on Women and Development (CWD) decided that it would encourage the NGO input into the review process although no particular decision was made in terms of the approach. By September 2003, the Committee was of the view that it was important to recommend a specific process. It decided on a process similar to that which had been adopted and would be used by governments at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. Hence Ms Tiagha went on to point out that the need for the NGO meeting to focus on the intergovernmental process was critical. This meant that each government would prepare an evaluation report to be submitted to UNECA-Addis Ababa and to the Division for Advancement of Women (DAW) in New York. To this end, DAW issued a questionnaire to guide the evaluation process all over the world. The questionnaire was sent to countries through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. UNECA also got the questionnaire and sent it to countries through the Addis Ababa office. It requested that each country input should be submitted to ECA by January 2004 and to DWA by April 2004. However, Ms Tiagha observed that the process is moving very slowly.

Ms. Tiagha informed the meeting that at the sub regional level, a sub regional intergovernmental meeting be held during the month end of April 2004 was to share experiences and ideas from a sub regional perspective. The invited guests for the meeting include experts from the Ministries of agriculture, finance and economic planning, health and commerce. The key objective was to share experiences, constraints and challenges, among others. The process will culminate in a regional ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa in October 2004.

Ms Tiagha noted that the parallel process for NGOs was to follow similar steps. The background to this was that UNECA communicated with various NGOs and suggested that they get together with other NGOs so as to make an assessment of the progress made since Beijing. Some NGOs had been responsive while others had not. Nevertheless, this provided clarity that an assessment could take place. Ms Tiagha further noted that communication was slow, compelling UNECA to search for alternative approaches to the NGO assessment process. A Regional consultative meeting will be held in July for representatives of national NGOs. UNECA had already informed the NGOs concerning the alternative meeting. It further urged NGOs to select representatives at national level for the regional meeting. The process of submitting nominations was on course but slow.

The NGO consultative meeting aims to define a strategy for organizing the assessment process for NGOs at the continental level. It should provide an opportunity to harmonise the NGO input into the governmental process at the regional level. UNECA connects with the global process in that the outcome of the sub regional meetings would feed into the continental one and the continental conference, which in turn would feed into the global assessment process scheduled for New York in 2005. It is anticipated that the NGO outcomes would enrich the intergovernmental outcomes. Ms Tiagha concluded by saying that she hoped that when the final report is sent to New York it will be reflective of both NGO and intergovernmental interests.

3.3 EXPECTATIONS AND AGREEMENT ON MODALITIES, BARBARA LOPI, WIDSAA

Ms Lopi led the participants into self-introductions and to state their expectations for the meeting. The participants brought out the following:

- To share areas in which progress has been made and on how best to build on it, focus and strategize as NGOs
- To share best practices and approaches and to provide lessons for others to learn from
- To learn how we can work around limitations
- To discuss strategies that NGOs have been using in mainstreaming gender and to input a way forward
- Identify constraints for women not only in the labour movement but generally in civil society
- Identify gaps and examine why we have failed
- To strategize on the way forward in gender mainstreaming in the environmental sector and identify any strategies that will promote the sector
- Not to hear the obvious from paper presentations but to move on and be action oriented
- Come up with strategies to learn from and feed into the SADC process
- To learn how we can face challenges
- To learn how other countries focusing on adult literacy have progressed since Beijing
- To look at strategies and particularly resources to implement projects and programs
- To share experiences and identify a common strategy
- To come up with a way of pulling young women and girls into gender issues
- To establish the strategies on how we may create synergies in issues from Beijing and other emerging issues
- To get technical assistance to enable us help people dealing with issues affecting them and to work on critical areas of concern
- To be part of a reviewing process of what has happened and impact made over the ten years and come up with strategies for the next ten years
- To get information on how other coordinating NGOs are coordinating effectively and efficiently in meeting deadlines on reports and acquire funding so that in the remaining months, we are enabled to work efficiently and effectively
- To take forward lessons from the HIV/AIDS /Gender challenge as a global agenda
- That we use the forum to consolidate our strategies into forward looking strategies
- What should be added on what has already been done
- To observe a good practice that will evolve from the NGOs coming together from the SADC region

3.4 ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BPFA AND THE SADC DECLARATION ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Brief presentations were made by representatives from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, WLSA, WILDAF, Women in Land and Water Rights, Gender Links, UNIFEM and SADC-GU. Presentations are in Annex I.

Mauritius, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Seychelles were not represented at the meeting.

Major achievements can be summarized as follows:

- Formulation and adoption of national gender policies: this has been done in countries Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- Establishment of institutional framework for gender – Ministry responsible for women affairs in Angola – Gender focal points in Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia, National Council on Women in Botswana, Commission on Gender Equality in South Africa.

- Review of laws affecting women and enactment of specific legislation to address issues of concern in countries such as Botswana, Malawi Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe

Common constraints included lack of information, the low participation of women in decision-making, legal and cultural barriers, lack of political will, inadequate funding for NGO programmes, non-domestication of international instruments and the application of dual system of laws. The main challenges to gender equality in the region are high illiteracy levels and mortality rates, HIV/AIDS, poverty and violence against women.

3.5 PLENARY DISCUSSION

3.5.1 What strategies were used to address domestic violence in Malawi? What is the financial status for women who are standing for elections?

A project was put in place to specifically deal with the issue of domestic violence. It aimed at being as participatory and consultative as possible. An issue paper was prepared in which the civil society demanded that domestic violence should be treated as an issue of concern that required immediate attention. Lessons were drawn from the region and international commitments were used as referral points. Consultative meetings were held with chiefs and other key people to harness their consensus on the process. Thereafter, the issue paper was circulated to key stakeholders with whom meetings were held. Key issues on domestic violence were treated as priorities and on completion of the process people were generally agreed that domestic violence was a serious national problem. The wide consultative process and firmness by NGO that domestic violence contributed to the success of the project.

Most women candidates lack financial resources. However, the Norwegian government has provided financial resources and a consulting company was engaged to disburse the funds to the women candidates. Guidelines are in place on how the funds should be disbursed and it has been emphasized that no handouts should be given by the beneficiaries to woo the electorate.

3.5.2 How does the cultural diversity in Botswana affect the attitude towards marital rape?

The government has established a commission of inquiry to define marital rape. People do not yet understand that husbands can 'rape' their wives. Sensitisation is required.

3.5.3 With regard to the loan system in Botswana, what is the strategy for keeping men from misusing the funds and disadvantaging women?

There is need to put effective strategies in place to empower women to take better control of the situation as men are taking over the businesses.

3.5.4 Has Swaziland has ratified the CEDAW

The status is not yet clear or defined. No official communication has been made on the issue.

3.5.5 What strategies are in place to ensure gender budgeting?

NGOs are yet to effectively monitor and ensure that this is put in place.

3.5.6 Domestication of international instruments

The meeting noted that although NGOs are apparently doing well, they are failing to hold governments accountable towards their international commitments.

3.5.7 Key challenges

The meeting observed that despite the immense efforts and progress made by NGOs and the legal reforms in most countries in the region, the HIV and AIDS pandemic, high poverty levels and maternal mortality rates pose a major challenge for NGOs and governments.

3.5.8 How do burial societies in Lesotho contribute to combating poverty?

Burial societies are self-help community groups, comprising groups of women in the village whose main objective is to provide assistance to the women in their area. The Societies provide among other things, financial support for the burial of relatives, produce from gardens to those in need and other assistance as the women may require.

3.5.9 How is the law reform society contributing towards violence against women?

In Lesotho, women are contributing to law reform by reviewing and advocating for reform of the discriminatory laws.

4.0 GROUP WORK

The group work was based on the national and regional presentations made by the participants. The guidelines were -

1. Outline major challenges, developments, opportunities and strengths in terms of progress.
2. What are the emerging issues?
3. What is the regional agenda for the future?

4.1 GROUP 1

The group discussed -

- Violence against women
- Women's legal and human rights
- Rights of the girl-child
- Cross cutting issues
- HIV/AIDS

4.1.1 Girl Child

- Not all countries in the SADC region treat the girl-child issue as a priority issue
- Lack of NGOs specifically focusing on rights of the girl-child
- Negative cultural beliefs
- Most school curricula are gender blind and perpetrate gender stereotypes
- Impact of HIV and AIDS
- Poor implementation of legislation

Emerging issues

- Gender-based violence
- HIV and AIDS
- Infection rates increase
- Orphans
- Lack of a regional agenda
- Caring role of girls and women

Developments

- Launch of the African Parliament
- Ratification of the CEDAW by Swaziland (although this is yet to be officially announced)

4.1.2 Women's Legal and Human Rights

Challenges

- Domestication of international legal instruments
- Taking stock of awareness
- Dual legal systems

Developments

- Launch of the African Parliament
- Ratification of the CEDAW by Swaziland
- SADC Declaration on Gender and Development Enactment of legislation
- Formal frameworks in existence, but lacking implementation

Opportunities

- Empowerment of girl-child and men's groups
- Sensitise community on the SADC Addendum on Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children
- Ratification and adoption of the African Protocol

Strengths

- SADC as a community
- Expertise in the NGO sector

4.1.3 Violence Against Women

Challenges

- Lack of understanding and appreciation by government
- Lack of legislation
- Lack of awareness on existing legislation
- Poor implementation and utilization of SADC Addendum by government and civil society
- Deteriorating poverty levels among women
- Lack of resource allocation to address violence

- Poor relationships between governments and NGOs

4.1.4 HIV/AIDS

- The issue has not been addressed holistically
- Interventions are not adequate
- No systematic management
- Availability of Anti-Retroviral Drugs (ARVs), Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT), Prevention of Mother to Child (PMTCT) which are not linked to mother to child transmission
- Increased morbidity and mortality
- Orphans
- Stigma
- Poverty

Developments

- Provision of ARVs increase work by NGOs
- Role identification for participation in UNECA/SADC Decade Review meeting on the implementation of the BPFA (26 – 29 April 2004)

4.2 GROUP 2

The group discussed -

- Women and Poverty
- Health and Reproduction Rights
- Women and Economy
- Cross Cutting Issues
- HIV and AIDS

4.2.1 Women and Poverty

Challenges

- Women concentrating on practical needs (household responsibilities) as opposed to strategic issues
- Women overburdened as caregivers as well as producers of household food
- Women and children trafficking
- Structural adjustment reforms, which are shifting social responsibilities from governments for to individual households

4.2.2 Health and Reproductive Rights

Challenges

- Poor enforcement of laws
- Lack of awareness of laws and policies
- Unequal sexual power relations
- Limited access to good quality health services due to high costs
- Limited access to safe abortion

4.2.3 Women and Economy

Challenges

- Micro credit systems maintains the low status of women – they remain at the low levels of the economic ladder
- Women are the majority of the population but a minority in the economic sector
- Economic reforms further sideline women's accessibility to loans
- Limited control over resources

4.2.4 Regional Agenda

Challenges

- Developing monitoring mechanisms to measure impact
- Domestication of ratified international conventions
- Involvement of men in programmes
- Reaching the affected with information on issues affecting them
- Macro economic frameworks need to be gender sensitive
- HIV/AIDS to be recognized as a poverty issue

Opportunities

Women and Poverty

- Existence of frameworks but not pro-neo liberal frameworks
- Availability of facts, evidence and analysis
- Realization by government, NGOs and other stakeholders that gendered poverty is a priority issue

Health and Reproductive Rights

- MDGs that clearly define the link between health and reproductive rights
- HIV/AIDS provides an opportunity for pushing women's rights

4.3 GROUP 3

The group discussed –

- Access to education and training
- Women and media
- Cross cutting issues – HIV/AIDS

4.3.1 Access to Education and Training

Developments/Strengths

- Girls are allowed to continue education after pregnancy
- Affirmative action at tertiary level - especially actions to move more girls into sciences and engineering
- Scholarships specifically for girls
- Fee payment schemes that increase the number of girls in schools
- Initiatives like PAGE (Programme for the Advancement of Girls Education - Zambia)
- Lower cut off points for girls to enter tertiary training (double-edge sword because girls may be regarded as inferior to boys)

Challenges

- Girls who qualify for certain fields and those who enter education through special programmes are looked down upon
- There are more boys still in school due to -
 - Early marriages
 - Poverty
 - Introduction of user fees (families prefer boys to complete their education and marry the girls off)
- Cost sharing
- Inadequate sanitation facilities for girls in some schools
- Displacement of people through land reform or conflicts, forcing people to settle in areas where there are no schools or far from schools
- Violence against girls in schools

Emerging Issues

- Child-headed households - children not able to go to school
- Gender should be mainstreamed into the school curricula at all levels
- Introduce more women's studies, gender studies and feminist studies programs at the universities

Agenda for the future

- Lack of national policies on adult education (literacy for women)
- Mainstreaming gender in all university departments
- Move gender declarations from non-binding to binding laws or treaties
- There is need for more test cases to assess the effectiveness of laws that appear to be gender-responsive and promote equality
- Amend the SADC Declaration from 30% to 50% (women in decision-making across all sectors)
- Hands up for girl child campaign (should become regional lobbying/advocacy initiative)

Challenges

- Education for all to include adult literacy and to be funded

4.3.2 Media

Challenges

- Need to break false distinction in the media of hard news (politics and economics covered by men) and soft news, health, education, etc covered by women). Women and men should be given equal opportunity to cover all areas on the media's agenda
- Women lack the right to freedom of expression in and through the media
- Editorial content – work to change the media as a conduit of backlash rather than exposing gender injustices
- Find strategies to mitigate the media backlash that is likely to emerge in its coverage and portrayal of the Beijing + women process

- Gender and media activism needs to be strengthened and increased across the region – (consumers of media to put more pressure on editors, owners of the media to give women a voice and portray them in a positive manner in their diverse roles).
- Incorporate gender into the training curricular of media training institutes
- ICT needs to be used more by activists to network and mobilize around issues of gender justice as a region
- Eradication of the 'technology phobia' among women
- More research on ICTs and need to package findings in a user friendly format

Emerging Issues

- The community media is not effectively playing its role of social responsibility to the public due to low skills. It does not provide positive and quality information to local communities. More time is spent on playing music
- Activists need to integrate gender into developing media and ICT policies at national and regional levels
- Campaign built around women's rights to communicate and have freedom of expression in and through the media

Regional Agenda for the future

- Gender and media activism
- Join campaigns for more gender and social responsible media

4.3.3 Women and the Environment

Challenges

- Lack of political will
- Privatization of water, energy, etc
- Women's' access to land - women cannot benefit from natural resources because they do not own land
- Moves to entrench traditional authority/leadership in legal systems and statutes – creates an obstacle to women access to land because most traditional leadership is vested in men
- Lack of national environmental policies
- Fragmentation of policies –water, land, energy, etc – all separate policies/Acts within countries

Emerging Issues

- Environment protocol that is more holistic (need to harmonize the legal framework)
- Gender is not incorporated into environmental policy issues
- Cross-border movement of people and industries have negative environmental impact

Future agenda

- Research, collect and process information/data on gender and the environment

4.4 GROUP 4

The group discussed –

- Effects of armed conflict on women
- Institutional mechanisms
- Decision – making
- Cross Cutting issues – HIV/ AIDS

4.4.1 Effects of Armed Conflict of women

- Government programmes for reintegration benefit men only
- Lack of skills in decision-making positions, and presence of gender sensitive barriers
- Lack of guidelines on how to treat women refugees

Developments

- The UN now monitors, through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and contracted implementing agencies

4.4.2 Institutional Mechanisms and Programs

- Establishment of gender departments/ministries
- Establishment of focal points in governments and NGOs

Challenges

- Lack of resources (human and financial)
- Leaders of most government ministries are not concerned about gender equality
- The link between the main Ministry and the Focal points is weak.

Agenda for the Future

- Sensitising female refugees on their rights
- More monitoring of the lives of female refugees
- Develop a regional watchdog
- Develop a code of Conduct

4.4.3 Decision Making

Challenges

- Media is not gender sensitive
- Lack of resources
- Socialization
- Resistance from men

Opportunities

- SADC Gender Declaration
- Put pressure on governments
- Women NGOs should support each other

4.5 GROUP 5

4.5.1 Gender Mainstreaming Concept and Approaches

Opportunities

- It is a tool of analysis
- Exploit the current structures and use them effectively
- Strategies that empower women

Strength

- Strengthen existing policies and programmes

Emerging Issues

- Understanding of the concept of gender mainstreaming

Agenda for the future

- Revisit the concept and approach

Challenges

- Depending on Government/Donor goodwill
- Approaching it as a charity.
- Build accountability strategies

Approach

- Dismantle the patriarchal structures
- Budgets must be gender sensitive
- Use gender indicators

4.6 PLENARY DISCUSSION

- To ensure that women benefit from macroeconomics, NGOs should approach the World Bank, specifically the gender person and present their concerns of the gendered effects of the macroeconomic programmes. The meeting noted that the gender persons in strategic positions are not playing their role in ensuring that women's interests are taken into account. The meeting further observed that it is necessary to strategise on the mode of ensuring that women input into World Bank and other multi-lateral agreements.
- The meeting lamented that the 30% affirmative action by SADC is not being effectively implemented in practice. The situation is worsened by the lack of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. NGOs were urged to engage governments into fulfilling their obligations and to follow up on the commitments, at best on an annual basis. The meeting noted that it is difficult to make governments accountable to the populace.
- The meeting was of the view that although governments in the region had ratified most international instruments dealing with issues of gender and women's rights, the conventions were not put into effect due to non-domestication in jurisdictions where international commitments do not apply directly unless an incorporating instrument is effected. Women cannot therefore, compel their governments to honour their obligations.
- The meeting proposed that NGOs should set norms and standards for governments and come up with a time-frame within which international instruments should be domesticated. The meeting also observed that the standards of education have collapsed in most countries within the region and the most affected is the girl-child.
- The meeting noted that the language used in some gender policies is 'apologetic', and gives the impression that governments are doing women a favour by adopting those policies.
- The meeting further noted that gender and culture had not been adequately dealt with during the meeting.
- The meeting agreed that there is need for concerted regional effort to ensure commitment to and attainment of the 30% affirmative action for women.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The SADC Gender declaration should be adopted as a Protocol to give it legislative and binding force.
- The international community should declare a decade for women.
- Governments should, within their respective education policies de-register or bar from practising any teaching professional that abuses or defiles a child.
- NGOs should tap into educational funds available at the UNDP offices.
- It is the government's obligation to develop policies and enact legislation that guarantees women and children their rights and prioritises the issues of gender and poverty.

6.0 PREPARATION OF COMMUNIQUÉ ON SADC POSITIONS ON THE CRITICAL AREAS

A core group was formed to work on the communiqué, which would be the basis for the NGO input into the government meeting. The communiqué is attached.

7.0 CLOSING REMARKS by Pamela Mhlanga

Ms Mhlanga said that the objectives of the meeting were achieved and reminded the participants to participate effectively in the subsequent meetings. She extended her gratitude to all the

representatives for making time and ensuring that the deliberations were fruitful and conducted in an open and frank manner. She closed by expressing her gratitude to NGOCC for co-chairing and hosting the meeting and urging the representatives to continue with collaboration and networking.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

Country	Achievements	Constraints	Opportunities	Challenges
Angola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adoption of strategic plan for gender promotion ▪ Adoption of policy for sexual and reproductive health for women ▪ Establishment of program for HIV positive pregnant women ▪ Adoption of gender programme for girls in school ▪ Establishment of counselling centres for victims of violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low participation of women in decision- making ▪ Lack of capacity to mainstream gender ▪ Inadequate commitment by government ▪ Lack of financial resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engendering peace process ▪ The Beijing evaluation process ▪ CEDAW report discussion in UN ▪ Millennium Development Goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High mortality rate ▪ Poverty ▪ Illiteracy ▪ Violence against women
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy on Women in Development formulated (1995) ▪ Establishment of a National Council on Women in Development comprised of key stakeholder institutions ▪ Development of a Gender programme (July 1999) and Short term Plan of Action (September 1999) ▪ Review of laws affecting women (September 1998) ▪ Vision 2016 recognises Gender and Development issues ▪ Financial Assistance Program provides for a 30% quota for women ▪ Women's Finance Housing loans for entrepreneurs ▪ Women empowerment projects established ▪ Women's NGO Coalition and Worldview support to groups in remote areas ▪ Revised National Policy on Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-domestication of international conventions and instruments ▪ Inadequate funding for women programs and activities ▪ Lack of skills and information ▪ Lack of markets ▪ Lack of financial resources ▪ Unequal access to employment development programs ▪ Women dependence on male partners ▪ Non-implementation of Policies ▪ Women overburdened with domestic and social pressures ▪ Educational material reinforces discrimination ▪ Women underrepresented in decision making positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Media working intensively with NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women living in abject poverty: female headed households constitute 70% with 46% living in abject poverty ▪ Legal and cultural barriers ▪ Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) Teen Mothers Project facing widespread opposition and attitudinal barriers ▪ Employment Prospects limited ▪ Increasing teenage pregnancies ▪ Physical, sexual and psychological abuse of girls ▪ People not willing to undergo HIV testing ▪ Lack of political will ▪ Women lack confidence to stand for political positions ▪ Marital rape not viewed as an issue for concern

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and Strategy for Vocational Training ▪ YWCA Teen Mother's Project funded by United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) provides opportunity for pregnant teenagers to return to school ▪ Sensitisation on HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, menopause ▪ Feeding programs for severely malnourished babies ▪ Establishment of political education project 			
Lesotho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of women projects ▪ Establishment of Early Childhood and Care Development by Government to cover children with special needs ▪ Women organizations established vocational centres to bridge gap between educated and uneducated ▪ Voluntary organizations manage children's programs, provide sensitisation on HIV/AIDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevalence of abduction of young girls ▪ Unreported domestic violence ▪ Sexual harassment common ▪ Unequal access to credit facilities, land and other resources ▪ Unequal division of labour and responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Law Reform Commission reviewing discriminatory laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women occupy minority status ▪ Stereotyping of women ▪ Inequality between men and women ▪ Discriminatory national laws ▪ Non-domestication of international instruments ▪ Environmental issues including extreme climate and terrain
Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Gender Policy formulated ▪ Development of Malawi National Platform for Action as a symbol of Government's commitment to improving the status of women ▪ Declaration by Government of Malawi Principal Secretaries to put gender on the Ministerial agendas and development activities ▪ Creation of Malawi Gender Training Team to contribute to the attainment of equitable distribution of resources and benefits ▪ Enhancing of extension projects aimed at increasing the level of literacy at community level ▪ Initiation of process to enact legislation against domestic violence ▪ 155 women contesting parliamentary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Gender Policy is a white elephant, it has not been adopted ▪ Inadequate health care ▪ Gender based violence ▪ Sex used to acquire vital and basic services ▪ Government has relegated its primary duty of care to women ▪ Long distances to health centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal and policy reform process ▪ Women contesting elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HIV/AIDS pandemic ▪ Poverty ▪ Illiteracy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> seats in the 2004 general elections ▪ National Strategy to combat gender based violence in Malawi ▪ Consultative meetings on Bill on Violence against Women 			
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designed framework for gender analysis of the Poverty Reduction Strategic Paper (PARPA) ▪ Government recognized Women's Forum as a resource for gender issues ▪ Network for Women and Gender NGOs created at provincial level ▪ Close collaboration between Women's Forum and Government ▪ National Gender Policy formulated and will be submitted to legitimise it ▪ Land law reformed and Coalition established to disseminate it ▪ Close collaboration with enforcement institutions on issues relating to Domestic violence ▪ Woman appointed as Prime Minister ▪ Created a ministry of science and technology ▪ Working with Women in Information, communication and technology in the rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of monitoring instruments ▪ Lack of information concerning the importance of tele-centers ▪ Lack of systematic, efficient and permanent institutional arrangement for information and gender statistics ▪ Lack of practical instruments to deal with gender issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mozambique is in the process of public and legal reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NEPAD – how it would be used to eradicate poverty ▪ Putting unpaid work on the advocacy agenda ▪ To build an effective domestic violence law by NGOs ▪ HIV/AIDS pandemic ▪ Gender budgeting
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women appointed into decision making positions ▪ Government analysing policies and programs regarding their impact on poverty and women ▪ Economic and social policies reviewed ▪ Technical and human resources to incorporate women in the development of agricultural, mining and fishing sectors in place ▪ Enactment of National Policy, Married Persons Equality Act on inheritance and the Agricultural Bank of Namibia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mathematics and science curricula materials are not gender sensitive ▪ Affirmative action in the constitution is permissible, not compulsory ▪ Limited number of women in political positions ▪ No specific programs for the girl child ▪ Poor implementation of laws ▪ Gender focal persons are often persons who occupy positions that do not allow them to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National gender policy ▪ Combating of Domestic Violence Act ▪ Rape Act ▪ Married Persons Equality Act ▪ Establishment of National Gender mainstreaming Task Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of financial resources ▪ Lack of awareness

	<p>on affirmative action loan scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Right to education enshrined in the constitution ▪ Exemption on tuition fees for parents unable to pay ▪ Establishment of directorates for adult education aimed at eradicating illiteracy ▪ Awareness campaigns by NGOs and Government on bursary schemes and training for women ▪ Gender focal persons appointed in most government ministries ▪ National Gender mainstreaming task force established, but not yet formally launched ▪ Family planning and reproductive health educational programs established ▪ Labour Act provides for maternity leave and women who have had miscarriages ▪ Enactment of the Combating of Domestic Violence Act ▪ Establishment of Ministry of Women's Affairs and the women and child protection units ▪ Training of police officers on treatment of rape victims ▪ Namibian Men for Change and media campaign against violence on women and children ▪ Government provides financing for small and medium enterprises for women ▪ Establishment of national organization for girls to prepare them as women activists ▪ New legislation gender analysed ▪ Government allocates financial and human resources to law reform and 	<p>influence management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of enforcement mechanisms to hold government responsible 		
--	--	---	--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ development commission ▪ Gender sensitisation training given to service providers such as lawyers, medical practitioners, etc ▪ Accessible and available legal aid services 			
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enactment of the Termination of Pregnancy Act (1996), the Domestic Violence Act (1998), the Maintenance Act (1998), the Customary Marriages Act (1998) and the Equality Act (2000). ▪ Reform of laws such as the Public Services Act (removed discriminatory practices), tax tables, labour relations Act (sexual harassment and maternity provisions) ▪ Setting up of institutional mechanisms such as the Commission on Gender Equality, the Human Rights Commission, the office on the Status of Women, Gender focal points, Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit and the Parliamentary Committee on the Quality of Life and Status of Women ▪ Review of the Sexual Offences Draft Bill by Parliament ▪ Establishment of an enabling constitution ▪ Establishment of local radio stations, newspapers and community outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of education and knowledge by civil society on the SADC Addendum on Violence against women ▪ Lack of training for gender focal points ▪ Transfer of trained government personnel ▪ Staff attrition ▪ Irregular reporting on SADC Addendum ▪ Lack of financial and human resources ▪ Lack of commitment and political will to gender issues on the part of government ▪ Poor allocation of funds for gender matters ▪ Negative attitudes by service providers (police, medical practitioners, etc) ▪ Lack of coordinated input and visibility on the Sexual Offences Act threaten the girl child ▪ Lack of access to information ▪ Poor implementation and enforcement of laws and policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government engaged in efforts to deal with violence against women ▪ Report on consultative meetings on gender-based violence held by the Commission on Gender Equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of monitoring mechanisms ▪ Ignorance on the part of the community on issues of violence against women ▪ Poor communities
Swaziland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender mainstreamed in some Government ministries ▪ Gender sensitisation workshops for the media ▪ Awareness campaigns and workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women are not allowed to own land ▪ Poor reporting by service providers ▪ Lack of human resources ▪ Customary laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Constitutional reform ▪ Ratification of CEDAW ▪ Law reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HIV/AIDS pandemic ▪ Need for more women in decision making positions ▪ Classification of country as middle income, hence not attracting donor funding

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poverty ▪ Translation of legal documents into local languages and simplification into user friendly language ▪ Establishment of gender desk ▪ Violence against women
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research and capacity building activities implemented ▪ Institutionalising of gender issues in all sectors ▪ Training for women member of parliaments ▪ Civic education ▪ Enactment of strong Sexual Offence Special Provisions (1998) ▪ Institutionalisation of 16 days of activism against gender violence ▪ Adoption of gender budgeting by Ministry of Finance ▪ Enactment of General land Act/Village land Act that recognizes gender equalities in a male dominated Parliament ▪ Participation in legal reform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Instability of political party ▪ Inadequate law enforcement ▪ Lack of awareness of laws ▪ Customary law ▪ Commercialisation of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal reform ▪ Budgetary process ▪ General elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neo-liberal system ▪ MDGs ▪ Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) ▪ HIV/AIDS
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation and adoption of National Gender Policy ▪ Gender and entrepreneur training and capacity building for CBOs and NGOs ▪ Translation of Beijing Platform for Action into four major Zambian languages ▪ Production of Shadow Report on the status of Women ▪ Slight increase in numbers of female members of Parliament ▪ Government set up a special scholarship scheme for girls where 25% is reserved for girls and 75% is open to both boys and girls ▪ Introduction by government of lower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delayed adoption of implementation plan for National Gender Policy ▪ 30% quota system not legislated ▪ Customary laws ▪ Presence of discriminatory laws ▪ Lack of political will ▪ Women lack confidence to contest elections ▪ Government has relegated its responsibilities to care for the sick ▪ Financial constraints ▪ High user fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of member organizations with specialization in critical areas of concern ▪ Constitutional reform ▪ Formulation of a national environmental policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Illiteracy ▪ High mortality rate ▪ HIV/AIDS ▪ Poverty ▪ Prevalence of violence against women, abuse of children ▪ Girl child pregnancies ▪ Increased number of orphans ▪ Stigmatisation of girl drop outs ▪ Gender imbalance in environment matters ▪ Media still male and government dominated ▪ Lack of understanding of gender conceptualisation ▪ Gender in Development

	<p>cut-off point for girls at both grade 7 and 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment of Victim Support Units ▪ Health reforms ▪ Introduction of program of Advancement of Girl Education (PAGE) ▪ Establishment by Ministry of Education of a unit to eliminate gender role stereotyping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor dissemination of information ▪ Structural weaknesses in health delivery system ▪ Lack of reproductive health care management ▪ Lack of access to media by women 		<p>Division (GIDD) does not constitute the level of envisaged machinery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of gender data bank sources at all levels ▪ Non-domestication of international instruments ▪ Inadequate monitoring and evaluation skills
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Gender Policy launched in March 2004 ▪ Enactment of Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Act ▪ Wills and inheritance program in place ▪ Establishment of Parliamentary Committees, Women's Charter, Gender Councils, Gender Focal Points ▪ Directives for gender responsive language ▪ Policy allowing pregnant teenagers to return to school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High user fees ▪ Lack of information ▪ Poor health services ▪ Diversion of national resources by the powers that be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CEDAW ▪ SADC Declaration on Gender and Development and its Addendum ▪ Domestic Violence legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women still considered as minors ▪ Land distribution system ▪ Issues of democracy and governance ▪ Backtracking on policies and development issues ▪ Poverty ▪ Prevalence of sexual abuse, violence against women
WLSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocacy work culminated in the formulation and adoption of the African Charter on Human and People's rights on the rights of women in Africa ▪ Lobby of Swaziland's adoption and ratification of the CEDAW (since ratified) ▪ Regional consensus on policy goals on affirmative action for women ▪ Gender sensitive legal reforms in Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique – laws criminalizing marital rape, child abuse, gender based violence and defilement ▪ Establishment of victim support units aimed at speedy, friendly environment for victims of crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government commitment on paper only ▪ Negative customary laws ▪ Continued gender violence and discrimination ▪ Disharmony between international, regional and continental protocols and domestic laws ▪ Violence against women is common phenomenon in the region ▪ Lack of enforcement mechanism for laws to protect women rights ▪ Insufficient recognition of women's reproductive and sexuality rights which fuels the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Country constitutional review processes ▪ Law revision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of positive policies and ensuring visibility of women's issues ▪ Adoption by the African Union of 50/50 representation in its structures against SADC's 30%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support of cases on abduction of young girls in Swaziland and Zambia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> infection rates of HIV/AIDS Slow pace in acceding to and adoption of the optional protocol to CEDAW and the protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's rights Under utilization of CEDAW on the ground SADC lacks a mechanism for reporting and dealing with breaches of human rights Absence of legislation with regards to HIV/AIDS 		
WiLDAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant steps taken to encourage women in decision making positions States and civil society have responded through the provision of policy statements, expanded legal instruments, civil and criminal action, counselling services, sensitisation and awareness raising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dual legal system in SADC countries Lack of financial resources in government and NGOs Stereotyping Cultural resistance Inability of individuals to place claims on governments Absence of international police to monitor women's human rights violations Many legal and community institutions have no capacity or political will to ensure protection of women Lack of awareness of the provisions of Beijing Platform for Actions and SADC Declarations and Addendum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constitutional reforms SADC parliamentary forum Awareness raising of all stakeholders on provisions of Beijing Platform for Action and SADC Declaration and Addendum Developing monitoring mechanisms to monitor implementation of instruments Collection of data needs for systematic documentation on gender in general Emergence of a number of national and regional organizations and networks have the potential to form stronger advocacy voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governments have ratified the Beijing Platform for Action and SADC Declaration as an end in itself and not a means to an end Sensitisation and awareness raising efforts are inadequate Still high incidence of different forms of gender violence Cultural norms and beliefs Application of dual system of laws HIV/AIDS pandemic
Women in Land and Water Rights in Southern Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender analysis of land and water policies in SADC Introduction of small holder irrigation program for food security Study on the integration of gender, land and water for food security and rural development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-domestication of international human rights instruments Lack of substantive policies and laws Fragmented policy and legal frameworks Market based access is key factor of production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current reform in the region SADC Gender Declaration Establishment of the SADC land desk Existence of SADC Water protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of norms, principles and standards to monitor women's access to and ownership of resources Political will on the part of Governments to ensure gender sensitive policy formulation Move the SADC Gender Declaration into a protocol that

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of political will ▪ Lack of resources ▪ Lack of training on natural resource management 		is binding
Gender Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initiation with the Media Institution for Southern Africa, the first Gender and Media Baseline Study (GMBS) for the region ▪ Pilot projects for media to come up with gender policies (Mauritius and Zambia) ▪ Creation of media networks ▪ Dissemination of bi-monthly journal on gender justice issues ▪ Pilot projects on gender mainstreaming with three media training institutions ▪ Training of media on gender issues ▪ Study on use of information technologies by African women ▪ Campaigns on gender violence during the 16 days of activism ▪ Producing and launching book titled 'bringing up the changes- women and governance in southern Africa' ▪ Documentation on gender equality in Swaziland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of strong gender and media activism in Southern Africa ▪ Strategies to address the issue of backlash in the media on feminism and gender activism ▪ Inadequate awareness on gender and the media among the different publics in the region, more gender and media literacy work needs to take place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Southern Africa Gender and Media Summit to review strategies ▪ Working with the media in the absence of editorial policies to devise policies that incorporate gender into editorial content and employment at all levels ▪ Growth of gender and media networks in countries, as well as media monitoring projects to issue regular reports on media shortcomings ▪ Media recognition of its need for training on gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Putting women's right to communicate and to have freedom of expression on the agenda of the media, human rights groups and gender activist groups
UNIFEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Capacity building and sensitisation workshops for policy makers and women NGOs on gender responsive budgets ▪ Commissioning of a guidebook 'why should we care about unpaid care work?' to be used as a basis for advocacy to lessen the burden of unpaid care work on women and girls ▪ Research studies on care work conducted in Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe ▪ Support to women in non-traditional activities such as mining and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Few economists trained on gender mainstreaming in women policies, programs and processes ▪ Limited resources to undertake national research ▪ Raw materials costly ▪ Inadequate institutional capacity ▪ Lack of financial and human resources ▪ Fragmented laws ▪ Lack of resources to access ICTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Political will on recognition of unpaid care work ▪ Availability of data ▪ Access to national and international markets ▪ Regional reforms ▪ Use of a rights-based approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unpaid care work is not recognized by policy makers hence not included in the system of national accounts ▪ Lack of resources ▪ Policies and legislation that support women in mining ▪ Political commitment in terms of amending legislation and policies that disadvantage women ▪ Gender Based Violence still prevalent

	<p>construction sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establishment and launching of national mining associations in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe ▪ Establishment of Southern African Women in Mining Trust in 1997 ▪ Pilot projects to strengthen women's capacity as entrepreneurs, producers and informal workers ▪ Launch of the Regional Platform on Women's Land and Water Rights in 2002 ▪ Launch of a regional SADC Expo for women entrepreneurs ▪ Enhancement of gender mainstreaming skills and formulation of country specific training manuals ▪ Program on HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights ▪ Support to Women NGOs on gender, HIV/AIDS and human rights issues ▪ Establishment of a Trust Fund for projects aimed at preventing violence against women ▪ Awareness workshops, school competitions, media programs ▪ Support to Governments of Lesotho and Swaziland in assessing current status on the CEDAW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited resources to address treatment issues 		
SARDC/WIDSAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Availability of documentation and profile on status of women ▪ Widening access to information on gender to government, academic institutions, civil society, media, legislature, etc ▪ Monitoring and evaluation of SADC governments programs in realizing Beijing commitments and the Gender Declaration ▪ Strengthening strategic partnerships to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of political will ▪ Lack of linkages between the SADC frameworks ▪ Implementation of frameworks weak ▪ Weak gender policies ▪ Weak enforcement mechanisms ▪ Some countries do not meet targets and deadlines in governance and gender issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SADC Protocols ▪ NEPAD ▪ MDGs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring and evaluation tools ▪ Development of indicators ▪ Distortion of theories, concepts and the practice of gender ▪ Establishing a nexus between policy makers and beneficiaries

	<p>influence the gender and women's empowerment agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting engendering governance processes at national and regional levels 			
SADC-GU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy development and commitment by SADC ▪ HIV/AIDS on the agenda ▪ SADC Secretariat ▪ Ministries responsible for Gender and Women Affairs in member states ▪ Sub-regional offices of IGOs: UNIFEM –SARO AND UNESA-SAO ▪ International cooperating partner organisation contributing financial and other resources ▪ NGOS which represent women and gender issues ▪ Adoption and signing of SADC Declaration on Gender and Development and Addendum on Prevention and Eradication of Violence against women and children ▪ Institutionalise gender decision making structures within the SADC structures ▪ Restructuring of SADC – Gender Unit in place ▪ Establishment of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan where the Gender Unit influences gender equality issues and mainstreaming ▪ 30% Affirmative action for women ▪ Council pronounced itself on use of gender sensitive language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enforcement mechanisms dependant on good will ▪ Monitoring progress made in the implementation of SADC, GAD and Addendum ▪ Public sector reforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revisiting the mandates, roles and responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited capacities both at Secretariat and national level ▪ Broad mandates, roles and responsibilities ▪ Establishing strategic alliances between government and non-government organisations ▪ Role of ministries for gender, women affairs and NGOs in influencing policy sphere

ANNEX II

COMMUNIQUE FROM THE SADC GENDER AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT NGOS TO THE SUB-REGIONAL DECADE REVIEW MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION IN THE SADC, LUSAKA 26-29 APRIL 2004

PRESENTED ON APRIL 27, 2004

INTRODUCTION

At the invitation of the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness programme SARDC- WIDSAA in collaboration with the Non Governmental organization Coordinating Council (NGOCC) in Zambia, we, the representatives of women's human rights, women's empowerment and gender and development non-governmental organisations from eleven countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) met in Lusaka, Zambia on 25 April 2004, at a special session devoted specifically to reviewing the achievements, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by our states in September 1995.

We gathered in Lusaka to undertake a critical review and assessment of the situation and status of African women and girls and to reflect further on new challenges and opportunities that the leaders of our region can take to further add to those strategies that have thus far been moderately successful in advancing women's empowerment and equality.

We recognize and commend the efforts by our respective national governments and parliaments, our regional and continental organisations and national, regional international NGOs, particularly women's rights organisations and gender and development organisations who have over the last ten years remained consistently committed to improving the status and condition of women in the region.

We acknowledge the support that the international women's rights movement, the United Nations agencies, bilateral agencies, the private sector and other communities and stakeholders have provided in raising awareness about the importance of striving towards gender equality and equity.

We further acknowledge that, to successfully implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Dakar Africa Platform for Action, the SADC Gender and Development Declaration, the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and our respective national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment that there is need to provide stronger and more committed political will.

There is further need to provide and determinedly protect financial and human resources at national and international levels.

We are deeply concerned about the rapid spread of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) infection in our countries and the millions of deaths caused by AIDS, which is testimony to the continued unequal power relations between women and men in our societies. The June 2001 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the HIV and AIDS established a clear link

between women's inability to exercise their human rights and their vulnerability to HIV infection. As the majority of the continent's care givers women and girls experience first hand the devastating and severe impact of the diseases.

We recognize that given women's subordinate position and lack of power special measures will be required to protect Africa's women and girls from all forms of public and private sexual and gender based violations.

We note with grave concern the misconceptions that have arisen around 'gender mainstreaming' as the identified approach to give women equal access to opportunities in all sectors. Some governments have interpreted the approach to mean mainstreaming 'traditional gender roles' whereby women are still unable to break through the 'glass ceilings' into decision-making positions.

Gender mainstreaming also has been simplistically defined as the social roles of women and men without any analysis of the unequal power relations within structures, which hinder women's effective participation. This interpretation of the approach has led to situations where gender mainstreaming is viewed as the sole responsibility of women, and it is seen as a 'favour', rather than as a strategic means to bring about gender justice and equality.

A strong review of 'gender mainstreaming' at the continental, regional, national and civil society levels within countries must be undertaken to develop approaches that result in transformation, rather than mere reform, of the patriarchal structures.

Information is a key resource for development, yet the advancement of women has been hampered by the lack of adequate sex- disaggregated data in all sectors to monitor and evaluate women's progress in relation to men. This is a gap in measuring the real gains and setbacks since the 1995 Beijing Conference, and is essential for developing effective and responsive policies and programmes that bridge the inequalities between women and men.

In this regard, we recall and reaffirm our commitment to all relevant decisions, declarations and resolutions in the area women's empowerment and equality, gender and development and human rights.

A. The persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women; and, (B) Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources

We acknowledge the commitments made by SADC governments to eradicate poverty. We make note that despite the concerted efforts of the leadership of the region, there has been a huge increase of poverty among the region's populations and that women and girls form a startling 70% of those living in extreme poverty. It has resulted in a massive growth in cross border trading activities by women informal traders, who often endure dehumanising conditions as they strive to supplement their family incomes.

Poverty also is a result of high levels of corruption and the non-strategic allocation of resources in country's national budgets (e.g. more spending on defence than health or education).

As AIDS increases the numbers of the infirm in our populations women and girls have been over burdened with the twin responsibilities of home based care giving and economic production at the household and community level, all this in an environment of globalisation and economic neo liberalism.

Women's growing food and nutrition insecurity, the increased number of households and especially poor households that are led by women provide overwhelming evidence of the feminisation of poverty in our region.

Debt servicing and economic Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) have disproportionately harmed women, in many cases forcing them to adopt additional mechanisms for economic survival. This has in many cases included transactional sex. Given the regions phenomenal burden of HIV and AIDS, it is critical to provide lasting, rooted solutions that eliminate the economic impoverishment and oppression of women.

Research carried out in the SADC region shows that women and girls did not benefit from economic structural adjustment programmes. In fact SAPs have seriously affected the direction of expenditure to the social services of health and education, sectors that women and girls derive great benefit from.

Women are the majority of the population in the SADC region yet they are minority actors in so far as making critical economic decisions is concerned. Women do not have access to and control over resources and have remained locked into micro-credit, small-scale loans and income generating projects. These have broadly failed to uplift women from poverty permanently.

While economic reforms had the aim of improving the region's economic performance and benefit women who form the bulk of economic contributors in the informal and communal sector, economic reforms have in fact continued to sideline women.

Recognizing these concerns the following actions should be taken:-

Governments

1. Adopt macro-economic and monetary policy frameworks that promote pro-poor growth that has a trickle down effect.
2. By December 2006, all SADC countries adopt pro-poor gender responsive budgeting as the approach for allocating resources at the national and local government levels.
3. By December 2006, all countries in the SADC region should conduct a time-use study and develop indicators to account for the work performed by women as unpaid care work in national accounts.
4. That there be a concerted effort to invest in infrastructure so as to bring resources closer to homes and reduce the burden of women's care work.
5. That women form no less than 50% of all bodies that make decision on economic policy.
6. That to democratize the economic decision making process all Parliamentary Committees responsible for Finance, Industry, Commerce and Trade have no less than 50% of its members as women and ensure that 50 % of all economic resources are targeted towards directly benefiting women and further that 50% of all macro economic, substantive trade and industry business opportunities are made available to women.
7. In force laws that guarantee that women form no less than 50% of the beneficiaries of land redistribution schemes and have access to, control over and ownership of land in their own right.

8. That countries develop monitoring mechanisms to measure the impact of economic policies.

NGOs

1. Develop parallel processes to monitor the implementation and impact of macro-economic policies on women and girls.

2. Provide expertise on gender responsive budgeting to all stakeholders for effective implementation.

3. Lobby governments to include unpaid care work in the national accounts; provide with statistics and indicators illustrating the methodology that may be used to account for unremunerated labour.

3. Raise public awareness and provide fora for public debate on the impact of macro-economic policies on women and girls.

C. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training

We acknowledge the gains some countries have made in advancing towards the target of education for all by providing universal free primary and secondary education to girls, especially those in vulnerable positions and/or living in the rural areas.

The following actions should be implemented to slow the rollback in educational gains in many countries:

Governments

1. Establish commissions to review the quality and content of education with a view to improving declining standards.

2. Revise and rewrite all curricula in a gender responsive manner.

3. Remove school fees and other indirect fees and levies that limit girls' access to education.

4. Put in place scholarship programmes, specifically for girls.

5. Put in place special provisions to enable girls to enter tertiary education institutions, especially in areas where there is a deficit of girls, such as the sciences.

6. Put in place stiffer penalties to punish teachers who sexually abuse their pupils.

7. Allow pregnant girls to return to school after delivery in all countries. This procedure should be backed with a conducive, non-discriminatory policy framework.

8. Make special provisions for girls in difficult circumstances; especially those in households that have been affected by HIV and AIDS, to receive education.

9. Ensure that the curriculum at tertiary institutions includes mandatory modules in women's, gender and feminist studies.

NGOs:

1. Develop public campaigns to build public understanding and attitudinal changes towards allowing the return of pregnant girls to school.
2. Develop public campaigns to raise awareness about the sexual abuse of girls in schools.
3. Monitor the extent of implementation and enforcement of Affirmative Action programmes for girls to enter tertiary education institutions, and report on any gaps in policy implementation.

D. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services

The 1997 SADC Gender Declaration's commitment to making "quality and reproductive health service more accessible to women", reinforces the Beijing Platform for Action's commitment to providing equal access to quality health care to ensure the full rights of women. The socio-economic context of most SADC countries provides a challenge to securing this right as most economies are depressed, and macro economic policies have impacted negatively on socio-economic rights, including provision of quality health care, particularly reproductive and maternal health care for women.

Very few countries still provide free access to health care for expectant mothers, and post maternity support. Few countries have reviewed primary health care services, and no serious inroads have been made to reduce maternal and infant mortality. There are few campaigns to provide women with more information on their reproductive rights, as well as those aimed at tackling the socio-cultural issues impacting on women's ability to negotiate both their reproductive and sexual rights.

We recommend that:

Governments

1. Remove user fees for all women seeking health care services.
2. Reduce maternal mortality in line with the Millennium Development Goal No. 5 (i.e. reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio).
3. Provide expectant mothers with ARVs to reduce parent to child transmission of HIV and ensure that once HIV positive women have given birth, they are placed on comprehensive ARV treatment programmes for their own health.
4. Reduce infant mortality or underweight births.
5. Provide access to a broad range of female controlled protective devices such as microbicides and condoms as contraception and protection from HIV and STIs.
6. Revising macro-economic policies to ensure that they are pro-poor; and national budgets are gender sensitive to take into account women's health care needs.
7. Conduct medical research in the field of women's health care needs and ensure health care service provision responds to women's specific health care needs.
8. Widen rights through legislative reform that permits access to safe and affordable abortion

NGOs

1. Undertake massive campaigns to raise awareness of and advocate for health care services in the areas of cervical and breast cancers
2. Advocate for the pro-poor gender responsive national budgets
3. Lobby for legislative reforms so as to permit widespread access to safe and affordable abortion
4. Advocate for the provision of high quality, gender friendly public health care institutions and services

E. Violence Against Women

The 1998 SADC Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children is a significant accomplishment of the region. It makes provision for law amendment, review, enactment, legal services and legal literacy as strategies to eliminate violence against women.

We acknowledge that there has been progress in legislating against gender violence, in particular domestic violence and sexual offences. A number of countries in SADC have now widened the concept of rape, to include the rape of men and boys; recognized marital rape as a criminal offence; provided for stiffer penalties, including higher minimum penalties for perpetrators of crimes against women; provided a broad definition of domestic violence, including the concept of family to protect the rights of men, women and children. Some countries now provide supportive structures for counselling crime survivors; have instituted victim friendly support units and courts.

There is now provision for in some countries in the region post sexual violence medical therapies and counselling including anti -retro viral drugs to reduce the risk of contracting HIV. Penalties are now in place for perpetrators of incest, particularly to protect the rights of the girl child.

Despite these provisions we note with grave concern that violence against women and girls is reported to have increased to endemic proportions right across the SADC region.

To ensure that the region takes very seriously the matter of protecting its female citizens from all forms of violence, we recommend that:

Governments

1. Implement judicial reforms by putting in place gender sensitive structures to provide legal services and counselling for women and girls seeking protection from violence
2. All SADC countries provide post sexual violence medical therapies for women and girls and especially those therapies that prevent and reduce the transmission of HIV and STIs.
3. All countries enact legislation that makes marital rape a criminal offence. That all countries enact legislation that criminalizes domestic violence and sexual offences committed in both the public and private spheres
4. All SADC countries report at the annual meeting of ministers substantively on the extent of violence against women, measures that have been taken to eradicate violence against women and targets for the following year of reducing further violence against women
5. All SADC countries ensure that they make and protect budgetary provisions for implementing

measures to protect women and girls from violence

NGOs

1. Lobby for judicial reforms that put in place gender sensitive structures to provide legal services and counselling for women and girls seeking protection from violence
2. Lobby for the provision of post sexual violence medical therapies and services for women and girls who have survived violence.

F. The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation

While the equal participation of women and men in peace processes is important to the attainment of sustainable peace and democracy, the involvement of women in the preparations and implementation of peace agreements in the southern African region remains minimal. Peace negotiations and agreements as well as the formal and informal process leading up to them are not engendered.

The heightened increase and vulnerability of women and girls to all forms of gender-based violence during armed conflict is unacceptable and violates their right to human security and life.

In light of the adoption of the Protocol, which identifies rape as a war crime, governments, humanitarians aid organisations, UN agencies working in conflict areas must give more public attention to the issue of gender violence in armed conflict and view gender violence during armed conflict as punishable offences.

We therefore recommend that:

Governments

1. Put in place mechanisms to strengthen women's participation in national and regional peace-building and reconstruction initiative and processes
2. Work with international humanitarian agencies to map out strategies and put in place mechanisms to protect women and girls from sexual exploitation and violence during conflict situations.
3. Establish tools to integrate gender at every stage of a peace process such as guidelines on the role of women in peace processes and reconstruction. A gender checklist must be provided for all those involved at every stage of the peace process to strengthen their capacity to promote gender equality and ensure that women participate effectively must be designed.
4. Ensure that peace agreements lay the foundation for women's equal rights to participate in and benefit fully from measures directed at the economic restructuring
5. In collaboration with UNCHR and other key agencies establish safe spaces in refugee camps where abuses and violations of women and human rights in the camps can be reported

NGOs

1. Organisations working in armed conflict areas must be provided with a regular forum to present gender concerns that must be brought to the attention of the intergovernmental organs

working on the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements.

2. Increase the monitoring, documenting and dissemination of reports on women and girls' experiences during conflict situations in their countries in timely fashions to the governments, international and national media, church organisations, among others to speed up the response time to violence and abuse in conflict situations.

G. Inequality between men and women in sharing of power and decision-making at all levels

We recognize the growing acceptance of the importance of women's participation in decision-making. Affirmative action policies in place in some SADC countries have contributed to women's advancement in decision-making.

However, women's participation in decision-making continues to be low. For example, as of January 2004, only Seychelles, South Africa and Mozambique had reached the SADC target of at least 30 percent women in their Parliaments.

The majority countries have not and will not meet the SADC target due to various political, economic, social and cultural factors that impede women's progress.

The following actions should be taken:-

Governments

1. Meet the African Union's target of 50% women in managerial and decision-making positions in all parastatals, public institutions, regional bodies, media institutions, the judiciary, the public service and trade unions.
2. All public and private institutions should use gender and organizational development models to review institutional structures and values in order to restructure them to operate in a gender responsive manner, and to permit the fair and full participation of women.
3. Enact special measures to increase women's participation in structures and policy-making processes at all levels from the village, to the national and regional levels.
4. Redefine political priorities, the political playing field that ensure good leadership, national democracy and governance reflects women's specific concerns, values and experiences and needs.
5. Work with civil society to mount civic education, which aims to eliminate discriminatory attitudes, and practices that discourage women from holding decision-making positions, especially in the public sector.

NGOs

1. Raise awareness about the importance of ensuring that women are part of the decision making structures and processes.
2. Monitor elections so as to ensure that they are conducted in a manner that permit the full and equal participation of women as voters and as candidates.
3. Build capacity of and provide support for women so that they can be strong, empowered

candidates for public office.

4. Conduct campaigns to overcome the public's attitudinal barriers with respect to supporting and voting for effective women candidates.
5. Monitor and hold governments accountable for the implementation of the commitments and report on the gaps in reaching the targets to gender equality.
6. Conduct studies that illustrate qualitatively and quantitatively the differential impacts women bring to decision-making and power sharing.
7. Lobby for a conceptual and structural redefinition of the patriarchal structures of governance and decision-making that present blocks to women's effective participation.

H. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women

Almost all SADC countries have some form of national machinery responsible for gender, as well as gender focal points within various ministries.

However, in the 10 years since Beijing, these units, departments or ministries have become weak and unable to be responsive to the challenges presented by the struggle for gender justice. Poor resource bases, few staff and no power or authority within governments to advance equality and justice for women are just a few of the constraints, among others, national machineries face.

Political will to gender equality is demonstrated through strong, well-resourced (financial and human) structures with power and authority from the highest level to act. Without such structures, Southern African governments will continue to experience a rollback in important gender justice gains which are intrinsic to meeting the Millennium Development Goals and stemming the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The UN General Assembly 2001 Special Session on HIV/AIDS made a clear link between women and girl's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS with the unequal power relations between women and men, girls and boys, and to women and girls inability to exercise their human rights.

Recognizing the above the following steps are needed to move forward:

Governments

1. Rebuild the institutional mechanisms for advancing gender equality to well-resourced and well-staffed offices placed at the level of full ministries or in the President's Office by 2006. Progress in this regard should be checked at the SADC Annual Heads of States Meeting.
2. Provide a certain fixed percentage of the national budgetary allocations for the institutional mechanisms, and this percentage should be protected and guaranteed by an act of Parliament.
3. Starting in 2004, institutional mechanisms should not be downgraded further in any country as a sign of SADC government's commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and other instruments they have signed.
4. Governments should set up and enshrine in law commissions on gender equality or an equal opportunity commission, with the mandate to oversee the legislative framework and to keep

government and all institutions accountable to gender justice and equality. These entities also should develop areas of research and study for the generation of gender disaggregated data and introduce consistently policy papers on the status of women within their countries; and interface with all sectors of society to ensure accountability and the incorporation of gender justice into the public, private and civil society sectors.

NGOs

1. Civil society groups working in the areas of gender and human rights should form by 2005 an umbrella body or coalition in countries, where such an entity does not exist, to serve as a focal point on gender justice activism in the country.
2. Women's coalitions or umbrella organizations should set up a task force within to be responsible for the regular monitoring of governments' attainment or non-attainment of targets set by national, regional and international commitments on gender equality. Reports from these monitoring exercises should be distributed at all levels in the public, private and civil society spheres, and forms the basis for continued lobbying.
3. NGOs should make a concerted effort to be key players in providing gender expertise, knowledge, and information to the development of policies and laws in all sectors of society.

I. Lack of respect for and inadequate promotion and protection of the human rights of women

We acknowledge that SADC governments have adopted, ratified or acceded to important frameworks for promoting women's human rights. As of March this year, all SADC countries had ratified the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). However, only four countries in the region have either signed or ratified the CEDAW Optional Protocol.

Recognizing that gender equality is a fundamental human right, SADC adopted its Gender and Development Declaration in 1997. In 1998 SADC signed an addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children, recognizing that gender-based violence is a gross human rights violation.

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa was adopted by the African Union. Only six countries in SADC have signed the Protocol; none have ratified or acceded to the Protocol.

The SADC Charter on Fundamental Social Rights, adopted in August 2003, which seeks to reaffirm the social rights of SADC nationals. The Maseru Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted in July 2003 which, amongst other things, recognizes that the pandemic is a development issue, and it also recognizes the fundamental rights and freedoms of people living with HIV/AIDS and the specific connection between HIV and AIDS and gender inequality.

Whilst the adoption, ratification and accession records of SADC countries are relatively good, we are concerned that SADC state parties to CEDAW have failed to report regularly and periodically on progress. Most CEDAW reports are extremely late, some by more than four (4) years; this signifies little commitment to the implementation of the Convention. Failure by SADC countries to

ratify or accede to the Option Protocol to CEDAW curtails the full range of rights that would be available to groups or individual women to present issues of gross human rights violations to the relevant UN body.

Commendable efforts have been made in enacting empowering gender sensitive laws. These important inroads in the area of legislation have included women's equality in marriage including protection from marital rape; women's equality in the acquisition of movable and immovable property rights; women's labour rights with respect to equal pay for work of equal value, maternity benefits, as well as protection from sexual harassment in the work place and affirmative action.

The non-binding nature of all the Declarations adopted by SADC and their non-domestication at country level, places limitations on the extent to which the region's female citizens can formally claim protection for their rights.

SADC governments have failed to provide easily accessible legal facilities; the responsibility has largely been carried by NGOs.

There are weak pro bono or pro deo systems, and there is a narrow conceptualisation of service provision for indigent persons in these systems. Review documents languish on shelves for some time before action is taken. The complexity of legal processes in most formal courts persist, mostly based on colonial precepts of meting out justice. Context oriented solutions to justice delivery must be put in place - procedures have to be simple and accessible to women.

Few Law Review Commission structures in SADC countries have prioritised the mandate to address gender and law concerns. Few Attorney General's Chambers and Offices are proactive in providing technical assistance to governments vis a vis gender sensitive legislation; increasingly this responsibility is being carried by civil society experts.

There is a lack of gender parity in most judicial structures in SADC and a lack of proactive approach in interpretation in most judicial structures - international human rights law instruments such as CEDAW are just 'paper rights'.

Despite these significant improvements in the law, gaps remain.

We recommend that:

Governments

1. Adopt far reaching measures within the framework of the elections unfolding in the region over the next 18 months, to fulfill the commitment of reaching the target of a minimum of 30% women in strategic political and decision making positions by December 2005.
2. All policies and programmes mainstream a rights based approach so that all persons in SADC acquire full citizenship rights.
3. Enact legislation that domesticates all regional and international instruments that are legally binding - the role of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and the SADC Secretariat must be recognized.
4. Enforce the effective and gender sensitive administration of the law.

5. Transform declarations entered into by SADC countries into Protocols.
6. Strengthen a peer review mechanism on gender at the highest level in SADC, which must also include experts from the civil society sector.
7. Amend all constitutions urgently to eliminate the provisions that currently exist for the discrimination of women and girls through customary and personal law.

NGOs

1. Lobby and advocate for the target to fulfil the commitment of a minimum of 30% women in strategic political and decision making positions by December 2005 to be met.
2. Lobby for the enactment of legislation that domesticates all regional and international instruments that are legally binding.
3. Monitor the extent to which the administration of law is conducted in a gender sensitive manner and report oversight.
4. Lobby that the SADC Gender and Development Declaration becomes a protocol.

J. Stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media

Recognizing that every citizen should be guaranteed the right to freedom of expression, and that this right should be protected against sexist, racist and other forms of biases which are forms of censorship; and

Acknowledging the research findings of the 2003 Gender and Media Baseline Study of women and men in the news in Southern Africa which revealed that in over 300 media in the region women comprised only 17% of the known sources.

The following actions must be part of concerted planning and action to achieve democracy in and through the media:

Governments

1. Create the space and regulatory environments that are conducive to the development of a free, independent and pluralistic media in all Southern African countries;
2. Set the example for all sectors in society by adopting and implementing policies that advance gender justice; and by eradicating all laws that promote all forms of sexism in the public and private sphere.
3. Make the findings of the 2003 Gender and Media Baseline (GMBS) Study, both regional and country - level reports known to all policymakers, ministers, parliamentarians, judiciary, commissioners, etc. to create awareness at the level of decision-makers on sexism in the media.
4. Set targets for the advancement of women in the media; and set up independent regulatory media authority to monitor the implementation of these target, and which ensures all media houses have instituted editorial and employment policies which eradicate sexism in the media.

4. Enshrine and guarantee within national constitutions the right to access to information for all individuals.

Media

1. Develop editorial and employment policies which prohibit discrimination against women in the workplace, ensure their promotion to key positions and develop policies which mitigate against sexist stereotypes, negative portrayal and the absence of women's voices and perspectives in the media. The media should give a fair and balance portrayal of women in the media in all of their diverse roles.

2. Revisit outdated style manuals and editorial policies, where they exist to ensure that these documents are not gender blind and promote the highest professional standards.

3. Gender justice should be covered in the media from a rights-based approach and should not be relegated to only a few columns or placed on special pages periodically; gender justice should rather form part of the regular coverage in the media of political, economic, reproductive, health, social, civil rights for all citizens.

4. Women's voices and perspectives in the media should move from 17%(2003) to at least 30% of sources by (2006) through a concerted effort by the media to access women as sources on all issues within countries' media. Each country should use the national GMBS report as a starting point to set internal target on women as sources, to contribute to the 30% regional goal.

NGOs

1. Incorporate media literacy into their programmes to build awareness on how to read the media for gender.

2. Gender and media activism centered on campaigns for women's right to freedom of expression should be developed within women's coalitions in the SADC countries.

3. Conduct regular monitoring of the media for gender bias, stereotypes and women's absence of voice should form the basis of regular 'complaint' reports to the Ombudsperson, independent media or human rights commissions within countries who make public reports.

4. Use May 3 -World Press Freedom Day to present independent analyses of gender in the media and/or wage campaigns in and through the media on women's right to communicate.

5. Gender activism should become more pronounced at the national and regional level to influence Media and ICT Policies;

6. Ensure that the country's National Gender Policies include a well-developed section on media in the context of freedom of expression and gender bias as a form of censorship against women; and gender should be integrated into countries Information and ICT Policies.

K. Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment

Women have the responsibility for managing household resources, but they typically do not have managerial control. Given the variety of women's daily interactions with the environment, they are the most keenly affected by its degradation. In Southern Africa environment issues include deforestation, decreasing availability of water and desertification. Increased deforestation leads to soil erosion and flooding, reducing agricultural productivity, contributes to decrease water availability and contributes to the burden of women.

Deforestation makes it more difficult for women to collect wild herbs, fruits and natural medicines, or fuel wood for cooking and boiling water. When women must travel further distances and take more time to collect fuel wood and water, girls are often taken out of school to assist. In areas where water is in particularly short supply, women use even more energy, putting them at risk of malnutrition and reducing their economic productivity.

The participation of women in environmental protection and management has continued to be inadequate, and hampered by limited access to technical skills, resources and gender insensitive environmental policies.

We recommend the following action:

Governments

1. Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels, including as managers, designers and planners, and as implementers and evaluators of environmental projects;
2. Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development.
3. Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environment policies on women.
4. Governments must make financial and human resources available for the involvement of women in environmental and natural resources management.
5. Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels, including as managers, designers and planners, and as implementers and evaluators of environmental projects; Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development; Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environment policies on women.
6. Take urgent measures to avert on-going rapid environmental and economic degradation in their countries that generally affect women and children in rural areas suffering drought, desertification, and deforestation, natural disasters and aftermath of the use of unsuitable agrochemical products.
7. Implement measures to protect farm workers, the majority of whom are women from exposure to certain agricultural and industrial chemicals, which increase women's vulnerability in pregnancy and childbirth.
8. Establish official channels to give women a voice in environmental decision-making. More often than not, women are not associated with discussions on the environment and very often the decision about location of water sources, types of water sources, and who will maintain the operation of the facilities are made without consulting women resulting in no-one taking responsibility.

NGOs

1. Raise public awareness on the importance of women's involvement and demand that space be created for the effective participation of women as decision makers in matters of environmental and resource management.
2. Undertake research and publish findings on women's roles and responsibilities in protecting the environment so as to build credible knowledge in the field of gender, environment and development.
3. Monitor the enforcement and administration of environmental legislation to ensure that its provisions protect women's environmental rights.
4. Ensure that all research in the field of plants and medicines is gender responsive and has clear benefits to women who are the guardians of knowledge about natural herbs, fruits and medicines.
5. Take steps to develop new technologies that eliminate women's dependence on fuel wood for cooking and boiling water so that there is less pressure on natural resources.

L. Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl-child

We note that SADC governments have signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We commend states for the efforts made especially in the areas of education and providing legislative measures for the protection of children from abuse, particularly through such practices as child labour.

Yet the development indicators across the region reveal that the status and condition of the girl child remains extremely low in our societies. There has been limited progress in ensuring that African girls in the SADC region do not top the statistics of children living in poverty, without adequate education, nutrition, shelter and in conditions of violence and conflict.

Over the last 10 years, girls have become increasingly subject to the growing unscrupulous trade in trafficking and are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse by men who believe in the myth of virgin cleansing as a cure for HIV.

Deteriorating public health care facilities have meant that girls are also increasingly carrying the burden associated with caring for people living with HIV and AIDS.

We recommend that the following measures be taken:

Governments

1. Stiffer penalties for perpetrators of incest to protect the rights of the girl-child.
2. Enact legislation to protect girl children from abduction.
3. Enforcement of the rights of girl children against labour, including labour related to HIV and AIDS home-based care.
4. Enact new legislative measures to protect welfare rights of child-headed households, particularly girl headed household.

5. Implement effective legal interventions to protect teenage mothers' rights to education.
6. Adopt victim friendly measures that ensure effective reporting on violence against girls.
7. Introduce reproductive health education as a compulsory subject in the school curricula from primary school.

NGOs

1. Raise public awareness about the need to penalize perpetrators of incest.
2. Lobby for the adoption of legislation that protects girl children against abduction.
3. Lobby for the protection of girls from labour abuses, especially those related to performing work related to HIV and AIDS home based care.
4. Lobby for the revision of macro-economic policies to ensure that they protect the rights of girls.
5. Lobby for the gender responsive allocation of national budget resources so that they are pro-girls.
6. Monitor the administration of legislation to ensure that provisions that protect the rights of teenage mothers to education are implemented.

ANNEX III

DISTRIBUTION OF GROUPS

Group 1

Janet Khunde - Swaziland
Charmane - South Africa
Matrine - Zambia
Lynette.M - WILDAF
Christine - Namibia
Irene - Zambia

Group 2

Edina
Abby Maryanne
C.N. Berkes
Lillian Kaoma
Brenda Mandiza
Rebecca
Cecilia

Group 3

R. Mbiya
E. Chilembo
P. Made
B. Lopi

Group 4

Chipo -Zambia
Mpolokang Moses
Maimbo Ziela

Group 5

Celeste - Mozambique
Seidi - Malawi
Josephine - Zambia
Mercy Siame - Zambia
Bella Matambanadzo - Zimbabwe

ANNEX IV

Participants List

1. Irene Lomayani
Social Affairs Officer - UNECA
Plot 2392 Lomgolongo Road
P.O Box 30647, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-228502/5; Fax: 260-1-236949
E-mail: ilomayani@uneca.org
Website: www.uneca.org/eca-sa
2. Isabella Matambanadzo
Executive Director - Zimbabwe Women's
Resource Centre and Network
288 Hebert Chitepo Avenue
P.O Box 2198, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: 263-4-737435; Fax: 263-4-720331
E-mail: Isabella@zwrn.org.zw
Website: www.zwrn.org.zw
3. Lynette Matimba
Programme Officer - WILDaf
2nd Floor, Zambia House, Union Avenue
P.O Box 4622, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: 263-4-752105; Fax: 263-4-781886
E-mail: lynette@wildaf.org.zw
Website: www.wildaf.org.zw
4. Patricia Daka Jere
Rapporteur
African Biodiversity Consultant
Plot 362, Ellaine Brittel,
Livingstone, Zambia
Tel: 097 822437
E-mail: patriciajere@zamnet.zm
5. Grace Kanyanga
Executive Director - NGOCC
Plot No. 5168, Nchoncho Road
Light Industrial Area
P.O Box 37879, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-227517/224727; Fax: 260-1-227514
E-mail: ngocc@zamnet.zm
6. Christine Nthabiseng Beukes
Executive Secretary - Lesotho Durham Link
HA Mabote Maseru,
P.O Box 87, Maseru 100, Lesotho
Tel: 266-22325166/ 58854588
Fax: 266-22312614
E-mail: ldlink@leo.co.ls
7. Emilia Fernandes
Secretary General - Rede Mulher
Avenida Hoji ya Henda
C.P 16532, Luanda, Angola
Tel: 244-2-449513; Fax: 244-2-449513
E-mail: redemulher@netangola.com
8. Matrine Chuulu
Regional Coordinator
Women and Law in Southern Africa (Zambia)
Plot 1257 Mambulima Road Rhodespark
P.O Box 34777, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-253974; Fax: 260-1-253975
E-mail: wlsazam@zamnet.zm
9. Seodi Mnthali-White
National Coordinator
Women and Law in Southern Africa (Malawi)
Opposite Admarc Flats, Next to Limbe Primary
School,
Kanjedza, Limbe, Malawi
Tel: 265-1-641534; Fax: 265-1-641538
E-mail: wlsamalawi@hotmail.com
10. Rebecca Muna
Programme Officer
Tanzania Gender Networking Programme
Mabibo Road,
P.O Box 8921, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: 255-22-2443205; Fax: 255-22-2443244
E-mail: po_civic@tgnp.org.tz
Website: www.tgnp.co.tz
11. Christine Esparanza Aochamus
Coordinator – Affirmative Action for the Girl
Child Project
Cnr Shanghai and Mungunda Streets, Katurura
P.O Box 3370, Windhoek, Namibia
Tel: 264-61-262021/ 2491702
Fax: 264-61-263539
E-mail: nagirlch@iway.na
12. Mercy Siame
ZARD Member/ Researcher
Plot 2303 Twin Palm Road Extension
P.O Box 50239, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 213345 / 097 874385
E-mail: sonya3@zamnet.zm
13. Patricia Made
Board Member - Gender Links
101 Harare Drive
P.O Box Greendale, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: 263-11410617 / 4-492982
E-mail: chisamiso@webmail.co.za

14. Josephine N. Sakala
Secretary – Women’s Committee
Zambia Congress of Trade Unions
Solidarity House, Oxford Road
P.O Box 20652, Kitwe, Zambia
Tel: 260-2-228284; Fax: 260-2-228284
15. Pamela M. Hamweemba
Movement 2000 Programme Coordinator
NGOCC
Plot No. 5168, Nchoncho Road
Light Industrial Area
P.O Box 37879, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-227517/224727; Fax: 260-1-227514
E-mail: ngooc@zamnet.zm
Website: www.ngooc.org.zm
16. Eva Kiwango
Social Affairs Officer - UNECA
P.O Box 30647, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
E-mail: ekiwango@uneca.org
17. Janet Khumalo
Programme Manager
Family Life Association of Swaziland
Mbhabha Street
P.O Box 1051, Manzini, Swaziland
Tel: 264- 505 3586; Fax: 264-505 3191
E-mail: janetkhumalo@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.flas@africaonline.co.sz
18. Suzana Gemo
Project Manager - SARDC Mozambique
Rua Afonso Henriques, 141
P.O Box 957, Maputo, Mozambique
Tel: 258-490831; Fax: 258-1-491178
E-mail: sgemo@sardcmaputo.sardc.net
Website: www.sardc.net
19. Anayawa Siamianze
Capacity Building and Networking Coordinator
NGOCC
Plot No. 5168, Nchoncho Road
Light Industrial Area
P.O Box 37879, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-227517/224727; Fax: 260-1-227514
E-mail: ngooc@zamnet.zm
Website: www.ngooc.org.zm
20. Celeste Nobela
Training Officer - Forum Mulher
N147, 3 Andar Direito
C.P 1993, Maputo, Mozambique
Tel/ Fax: 258-493437
E-mail: celeste@forumulher.org.mz
21. Edinah Masiywa
Executive Director - Women Action Group
11 Lincoln Road
P.O Box 135, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel/ Fax: 263-4-33916
E-mail: wag@wag.org.zw
22. Charmaine Govender
Campaigns Coordinator
Western Cape Network on Violence Against Women
Sarrah Tjie Baartman Women’s Centre,
Klipfontein Road, Surrey Estate
P.O Box 5, Athlone 7760
Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: 27-21-6335287; Fax: 27-21-6370785
E-mail: mabuphele@womenscentre.co.za
23. Rosemary Mbiya
Board Member
Adult Education Association of Zambia
1st Floor Nsefu House, Caird Road
P.O box 37879, Lusaka, Zambia
E-mail: adulthoodeducationlusaka@yahoo.com
24. Irene G. Lungu
ZARD -Board Member
P.O Box 35131, Lusaka , Zambia
Tel: 260-1-224536; Fax: 260-1-254164
E-mail: zard@zamtel.zm /
iglungu@necz.org.zm
25. Maimbo Ziela
ZARD - Board Secretary
P.O Box 3, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1234395; Fax: 260-1-229773
E-mail: maimboziela@yahoo.co.uk
26. M.A Nguni
NGOCC - Committee Member
P.O Box 30888, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-235695
27. Mary A Mbeo
Programme Officer- UNIFEM
UN Headquarters, Gigiri, Block Q
P.O Box 30218, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 254-20-624385; Fax: 254-20-624494
E-mail: mary.mbeo@undp.org
Website: www.unifem.org

28. Lillian Kaoma
Gender Advisor -YWCA
Nationalist Road
P.O Box 50115, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-254751
29. Brenda S. Mandiza
Project Coordinator - SWAAZ
P.O Box 50270, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 243359
30. Lilian Mushota
Chairperson - Zambia Alliance of Women
P Bag W41, Lusaka, Zambia
31. Lubinda M Tafira
Executive Director
Zambia Alliance of Women
P.O Box 50266, Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 260-1-225573 / 260-97-794139
32. Mpolokang Moses
Volunteer - Women's NGO Coalition
P.O Box 501394, Gaborone, Botswana
Tel: 267-3959424 / 3909335,
Fax: 267-3909335
E-mail: tukuuu@yahoo.com
33. Abby Taka Mgugu
Regional Director
Women Land and Water Rights in Southern Africa
13 Langham Road, University of Zimbabwe
Harare, Zimbabwe, Tel: 263-745052
E-mail: wlwrsa@africaonline.co.zw
34. Cecilia Ncube
Programme Officer - UNIFEM
7th Floor, Takura House,
67-69 Kwame Nkhuruma Avenue
P. Bag 4775 Causeway
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: 263-479268; Fax: 263-4-704729
E-mail: Cecilia.ncube@undp.org
35. Pamela Mhlanga
Head of Programme
Women in Development Southern Africa
Awareness (WIDSAA) Programme
Southern African Research and
Documentation Centre (SARDC)
15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia,
Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: (263 4) 791141; Fax (263 4) 791271
Email: pmhlanga@sardc.net
Web site: www.sardc.net
36. Barbara Lopi
Project Manager/Editor and Deputy Head of
Programme
Women in Development Southern Africa
Awareness (WIDSAA) Programme
Southern African Research and Documentation
Centre (SARDC)
15 Downie Avenue, Belgravia
Harare, Zimbabwe
Email: blopi@sardc.net
Web site: www.sardc.net
37. Priscilla Mnganya
Senior Researcher/Writer
Women in Development Southern Africa
Awareness (WIDSAA) Programme
Southern African Research and Documentation
Centre (SARDC)
Email: pmnganya@sardc.net
Web site: www.sardc.net

ANNEX V

ABOUT THE COLLABORATING PARTNERS

SARDC (Southern African Research and Documentation Centre)

SARDC is an independent regional information resource centre, which seeks to enhance the effectiveness of key development processes in the SADC region through the collection, production and dissemination of information and enabling the capacity to generate and use information.

WIDSAA (Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness)

Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA), is the gender programme of SARDC. WIDSAA is a regional program established within SARDC in 1992 to serve as a catalyst and information service to the SADC region's governments, parliamentarians, NGOs and agencies, the media and the public in the formulation of policies affecting women in the southern African region.

NGOCC (Non-Governmental Organisations' Coordinating Council) for Gender and Development

NGOCC is an umbrella organization of member NGOs/CBOs active in addressing gender and development challenges and is committed to coordinating and strengthening these organizations to enhance their effectiveness in empowering women.

HIVOS (Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries)

HIVOS is a Dutch non-governmental organization, which operates on the basis of humanist values. HIVOS aims to contribute towards a free, just and sustainable world. The organization is committed to the poor and marginalized – and to the organizations that promote their interests – in countries in the South and in South-East Europe.

UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women)

UNIFEM promotes women's empowerment and gender equality. It works to ensure the participation of women at all levels of development planning and practice, and acts as a catalyst with the UN system, supporting efforts that link the needs and concerns of women to all critical issues on the national regional and global agendas, UNIFEM focuses its work at the country level with the context of the United Nations Resident Coordinator system.



NGOCC for Gender and Development

SADC Gender/Women's Empowerment NGO Focal Points Working Session
Held at Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia
25th April 2004

Objective

Prepare for strategic input into the Southern Africa Decade Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing + 10), which takes place in Lusaka, Zambia from April 26th – 29th 2004

Sunday 25th April 2004

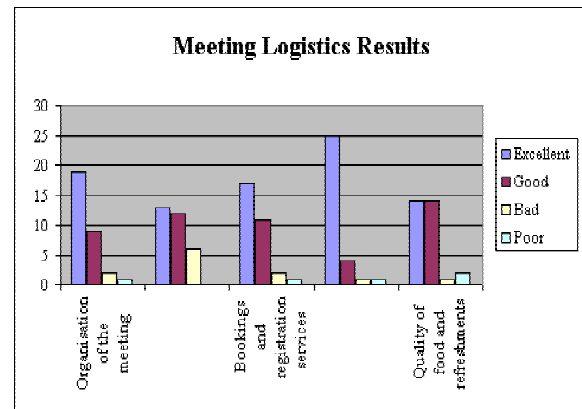
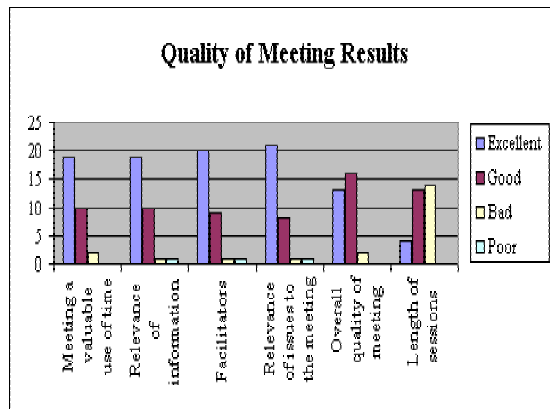
08:30 – 09:45	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks - NGOCC Executive Director Grace Kanyanga • Why we are here - WIDSAA Head of Programme Ms. Pamela Mhlanga • Presentation by UNECA representative • Expectations and Agreement on modalities
09:45 – 10:30	<p>Achievements, challenges, constraints and opportunities towards implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the past 10 years (including the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brief Presentations by Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, WLSA, WiLDAF, Women in Land and Water Rights, Gender Links, UNIFEM, SADC-GU (5 – 10 minutes each)</i>
10:30 – 10:45	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
10:45 – 12:45	Continue with brief presentations on achievements, challenges, constraints and opportunities towards implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the past 10 years (including the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development)
12:45 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Group work - Based on National and Regional presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline the major developments, challenges and constraints • What are the new emerging issues • What is the regional agenda for the future
15:00 – 15:45	Groups Report Back [Redefinition or Identification of new SADC priorities, defining a broad agenda for future action]
15:45 – 16:00	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
16:00 – 16:45	Role identification for Participation in UNECA/SADC Decade Review Meeting on the Implementation of the BPFA (26-29 April 2004)
16:45 – 17:00	<p>Preparation of communiqué on SADC NGO Positions on the Critical Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of a Core Group to facilitate caucuses
17:00 – 17:30	Preparation and finalization of Press releases

ANNEX VII EVALUATION RESULTS

The evaluation report was compiled from a total of 31 completed Evaluation forms.

Quality of Meeting	Excellent	Good	Bad	Poor
Meeting a valuable use of time	19	10	2	
Relevance of information	19	10	1	1
Facilitators	20	9	1	1
Relevance of issues to the meeting	21	8	1	1
Overall quality of meeting	13	16	2	
Length of sessions	4	13	14	

Meeting Logistics	Excellent	Good	Bad	Poor
Organisation of the meeting	19	9	2	1
Information sent prior to the meeting		13	12	6
Bookings and registration services		17	11	2
Venue location and facilities		25	4	1
Quality of food and refreshments		14	14	2



ANNEX VIII

MEDIA ARTICLES

Editorials

FROM BEIJING TO AFRICA - IMPLEMENTING THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Barbara Lopi

The year 2005 marks the 10th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing, China, in 1995, and processes to review the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) are gaining momentum.

Recently, a southern African intergovernmental Sub-Regional Meeting for the decade review of the BPFA was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 26 to 28 April 2004 under the auspices of the southern Africa Office of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Prior to the sub-regional review meeting, representatives of women's human rights, women's empowerment and gender and development non-governmental organisations from eleven countries met in Lusaka, Zambia on 25 April 2004, at a special session devoted specifically to reviewing the achievements, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of BPFA.

The objective of the working session, which was convened by the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness programme (WIDSAA) in collaboration with the Non Governmental Organisation Coordinating Council (NGOCC) in Zambia, was to consolidate civil society input to the intergovernmental decade review meeting.

The NGO meeting achieved their objective by producing a communiqué, which was presented to the sub-regional intergovernmental decade review meeting. The communiqué outlined constraints and challenges encountered in implementing the 12 critical areas outlined in BPFA. While acknowledging the region's progresses, the Gender NGOs expressed deep concern about the rapid spread of HIV infection in the SADC countries and the millions of deaths caused by AIDS, which they described as a testimony to the continued unequal power relations between women and men.

The communiqué highlighted several constraints and challenges hampering the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern outlined in the BPFA as obstacles to the advancement of women and gender equality. Key among the constraints is the failure to operationalise established gender equality frameworks and implement national and regional policies. A majority of countries in the region have adopted national gender policies and developed attractive strategic plans for their implementations, but these have remained unimplemented. Reasons include a lack of financial and human resources.

The established mechanisms for the advancement of women have also been less productive due to unclear mandates, understaffing and limited skills in gender mainstreaming. Only a few experts have the requisite gender competencies and awareness on gender equality instruments to implement policies and assist in mainstreaming of gender.

Another major concern expressed was the misconception surrounding gender mainstreaming, which was reported to be hindering the promotion of gender equality.

To clear the current misunderstanding of the concept of gender mainstreaming, the NGOs in their communiqué called for a strong review of 'gender mainstreaming' at the continental, regional, national and civil society levels within countries and for the development of approaches that result in transformation, rather than mere reform, of the patriarchal structures.

“Gender mainstreaming has been simplistically defined as the social roles of women and men without any analysis of the unequal power relations within structures, which hinder women's effective participation.

This interpretation of the approach has led to situations where gender mainstreaming is viewed as the sole responsibility of women, and it is seen as a 'favour', rather than as a strategic means to bring about gender justice and equality.

“We note with grave concern the misconceptions that have arisen around 'gender mainstreaming' as the identified approach to give women equal access to opportunities in all sectors. Some governments have interpreted the approach to mean mainstreaming 'traditional gender roles' whereby women are still unable to break through the 'glass ceilings' into decision-making positions,” read part of the communiqué.

Gender experts define gender mainstreaming as the (re) organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy-making.

Gender mainstreaming means that gender equality is part of common policies and thus it (gender mainstreaming) implies a broader and more comprehensive definition of gender equality, giving value to differences and diversity. In stressing the need to (re) organise, improve, develop and evaluate policy processes, gender mainstreaming must be able to challenge the male bias that characterises society and the structural character of gender inequality. Mainstreaming must involve more and new actors in building a balanced society.

Concern about the lack of gender specific job descriptions, and the limited knowledge on gender issues, was also expressed. This was coupled with low working morale that defeated the good intention behind established gender focal points in the ministries in most SADC countries. Personnel at these focus points are usually overburdened by other responsibilities, and in some cases lack gender-mainstreaming skills, thereby rendering them unable to influence policy changes in their respective sectors. These problems are compounded by the high turnover of gender specialists.

Recommendations regarding the other priority areas of concern in the BPFA were as follows:

* In order to effectively reduce the prevalence of HIV and AIDS, governments must make gender equality central to all strategies, policies and programmes.

* Declining economies and poverty remain big challenges for the region. It was recommended that by December 2006, women form no less than 50% of all bodies that make decisions on economic policy; and enact laws that guarantee that women form no less than 50 percent of the beneficiaries of land redistribution schemes and have access to and control over ownership of land in their own right.

* Recognising the high maternal mortality rates in the sub-region, provision of quality reproductive health services is paramount. It is recommended that user fees for all women including pregnant girls seeking health services be removed; that a broad range of female controlled protective devices such as microbicides and condoms be provided as contraception and protection from HIV and STIs and legislative reforming permitting access to safe and affordable delivery and abortion be effected.

* On gender violence, it was recommended that all SADC countries provide post sexual violence medical therapies for women and girls and especially those therapies that prevent and reduce the transmission of HIV and STIs; all countries enact legislation that criminalizes domestic violence and sexual offences committed in both the public and private spheres; all SADC countries ensure that they make and protect budgetary provisions for implementing measures to protect women and girls from violence; that governments enact stiffer penalties for all forms of sexual violence against the girl-child including trafficking, and protect girls from child labour.

* On women in decision-making positions, it was recommended that governments adopt measures within the framework of the elections which are unfolding in the region over the next 18 months, to fulfil the commitment of reaching the target of a minimum of 30 percent women in strategic political and decision making positions by December 2005; domesticate all regional and international instruments that are legally binding, and transform declarations into Protocols; and amend all constraints urgently to

eliminate the provisions that currently exist for the discrimination of women and girls through customary and personal law.

* While recognising the growing acceptance of women's participation in decision-making, the NGOs recommended that governments make a concerted effort to: meet the African Union's target of 50% women in managerial and decision-making positions in all parastatals, public institutions, regional bodies, media institutions, the judiciary, the public service and trade unions; and enact special measures to increase women's participation in structures and policy-making processes at all levels.

* On women in the media, government and media were recommended to set targets for the advancement of women in the media; and set up an independent regulatory media authority to monitor the implementation of these targets. The media were also urged to develop editorial and employment policies, which prohibit discrimination against women in the workplace, and ensure their promotion to key positions.

Lastly, Southern Africa - and the African continent - must begin to operate on a new gear, which ensures that all commitments agreed upon, including protocols and declarations signed, are adhered to. As the continent prepares for the African Union meeting in July, governments and heads of states that have not signed, ratified or acceded to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa must do so.

Few countries have so far signed, ratified or acceded to the Protocol, which holds lots of opportunities to squarely address a number of interconnected issues on violence against women, based on African women's experiences. The Protocol is crucial for enacting gender sensitive legislation that is rooted in local experience and responds concisely to women's lived realities.

* Barbara Lopi is Project Manager/Editor the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre, Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (SARDC WIDSAA) programme. "This article first appeared in Pambazuka News, an electronic newsletter for social justice in Africa, www.pambazuka.org".

SADC gender experts review progress after Beijing

by Singy Hanyona

Gender experts in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have urged leaders in the region to domesticate international human rights instruments and gender frameworks in order to promote equality among women and men. One such framework is the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

A SADC Sub-regional Decade Review meeting held in Lusaka-Zambia from 26-28 April recommended that there should be concerted efforts to eliminate harmful cultural and traditional practices if gender policies were to be effectively implemented in the region.

SADC has joined the rest of the world in evaluating the state of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2004 in preparation for the decade Beijing +10 in 2005. The meeting devised some strategies on measures to address the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the recommendations of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The objective of the statutory meeting was to review and appraise progress made in the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action in Africa, during the past 10 years in the SADC region (Beijing+10).

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) organized the inter-governmental meeting for Africa in conjunction with SADC. The meeting brought together experts from national gender machineries, ministries of finance, planning, industry and trade, health, agriculture and foreign affairs.

Representatives from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, noted the critical need to develop a mechanism to ensure gender mainstreaming in line ministries, with own budgets.

The meeting recommended that governments must adopt affirmative action to protect women and this should be enshrined in national constitutions. According to resolutions of the meeting, SADC should also revisit the 30 percent representation of women in decision-making, and as per African Union (AU) requirements, upgrade to 50 percent.

Dickson Mzumara, ECA Southern Africa Officer-in-Charge, says the decade review was important, especially since it is now almost 30 years after the first Global Women's Conference, held in Mexico in 1975.

A communiqué from the SADC gender and women's empowerment NGOs to the meeting called on all SADC countries to adopt pro-poor gender responsive budgeting as the approach for allocating resources at the national and local government levels by December 2006.

The Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC), Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA) convened the working session for SADC gender and women's empowerment NGOs a day before the UNECA meeting. This was in collaboration with the Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Council (NGOCC), the umbrella body of gender and development-oriented NGOs in Zambia to consolidate the NGO input to the bigger meeting.

Regarding women in power and decision-making, the meeting heard that progress has been registered. For instance, Swaziland has elected a woman as Deputy Speaker in the House of Assembly, and a woman Deputy President in the House of Senate.

The DRC and Zimbabwe also have women Deputy Speakers. Zambia has a woman Clerk of the National Assembly, a woman Director of Public Prosecution and Auditor General. The country also has the first woman State Counsel in the history of the republic.

Experts at the meeting proposed that mechanisms to hold parliaments accountable for any gender disparities should be developed. They also proposed that networks for gender mainstreaming should be established at community level in SADC.

"Parliamentarians should be targeted for training to utilize gender equality instruments, which should be translated into local languages," reads one of the resolutions from the meeting.

Delegates also tackled the impact of HIV and AIDS and poverty on the struggle to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women in southern Africa, as a serious emerging issue.

According to a SADC study presented at the meeting, the region accounts for over 70 percent of the people infected globally.

"Women and children suffer disproportionately as the scourge is hitting women hard," says the study. After the Beijing international women's conference in China in 1995, the affirmative action resolution, urged countries to strive for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The impact of HIV and AIDS and the growing poverty exacerbated by economic structural adjustment, have frustrated these efforts. Individuals, men and women, families, communities and entire nations are destabilized by the epidemic.

Ministers responsible for gender and women affairs in the region also met to validate the outcomes reports of experts.

The outcomes of the meeting will be fed into the Southern Africa Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) and will constitute the SADC position in the Africa Regional and Global Review of Beijing +10. The experts' meeting comes six months before the 7th African Regional Conference on Women, to be held in November 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The conference will be hosted by UNECA and is designed to enable Africa to assess progress made and to make decisions on the advancement of women, within the framework of Beijing +10. (SARDC)

Political will key to gender development, says Mbula (Zambia Daily Mail, 27/04/2004)

By PAULINE BANDA

POLITICAL will is key in meeting the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) declaration on gender and development, Secretary to the Cabinet Leslie Mbula said in Lusaka yesterday.

Opening a sub-regional meeting of experts, which is reviewing the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action, Mr Mbula said gender equity and equality was important for SADC and the globe as a whole. Zambia is a signatory to the SADC declaration, which sets out a target of 30 per cent female representation in decision-making and politics by 2005.

The Lusaka meeting, which has been tasked to lay ground for a ministers' meeting, is reviewing progress made in the last 10 years after the Beijing Declaration. The Beijing world conference on women took place in September 1995.

"A sustainable political will is essential if the SADC heads of state are to translate into action the SADC declaration on gender and development signed in 1997," Mr Mbula told participants at the Taj Pamodzi Hotel.

He lauded Mozambique, which recently appointed a woman as Prime Minister and Swaziland and Malawi, which have female speakers of their National Assemblies.

He said the contribution of women to development was a necessity adding that although women across the region had been appointed to high positions, there was still room for improvement.

He commended gender technocrats for keeping the gender momentum alive in Africa. The review meeting, which ends on Thursday will zero in on the obstacles and achievements of the post Beijing era.

The Beijing Platform for Action raised 12 critical areas of concern, including health and HIV/AIDS, poverty, education and Women and the Media.

The meeting will also look at national gender policies and implementation processes. All the countries represented at the meeting are expected to give a post-Beijing report for networking purposes.

Almost the whole of SADC and East Africa is represented at the meeting, which has drawn over 50 participants from governments and civil society.

And Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) director of the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) Josephine Ouedraogo said she was happy that women had registered their presence in decision-making.

"We take note of the unprecedented increase in the number of women in Parliament as exemplified by Rwanda with women holding 45 per cent of Parliamentary seats. We are also reliably informed that women have achieved equal representation in the South African Parliament," Ms Ouedraogo said.

She said women still faced major challenges and their status was closely linked to that of general development on the African continent. The government gender machinery the Gender in Development Division headed by permanent secretary Sr Auxillia Ponga is actively participating in the review meeting.

Shikapwasha seeks support for SADC gender project - 30/04/2004

By PAULINE BANDA

HOME Affairs Minister Ronnie Shikapwasha is seeking support for the implementation of the SADC target of 30 per cent female representation in decision-making and politics by 2005.

Lieutenant-General Shikapwasha who was opening a SADC Ministers' decade review meeting of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Lusaka yesterday, said SADC must move fast to meet this target and exceed it if possible.

The ministers' meeting was preceded by a meeting of gender experts, which started on Sunday and ended on Wednesday night. The experts were laying ground for the ministers.

"The 1997 declaration on gender and development which all SADC heads of state or government signed clearly commits SADC countries to ensure the equal representation of women and men in decision-making and the achievement of the SADC target.

"The year 2005 is only eight months away from now but frankly, how much have SADC member states done to translate this important commitment into action. The picture is mixed, presenting more challenges to be addressed rather than achievements and scores to propel the gender equality agenda," Lt. Gen Shikapwasha said.

Zambia has reached about 17 per cent female representation in decision-making and politics. He said women were an indispensable part of society and they must be accorded an opportunity to contribute to development.

Botswana, Zambia and Lesotho are represented at ministerial level at the meeting chaired by Zambia. Other SADC countries have also sent representation at diplomatic and other levels.

Lt. Gen Shikapwasha also expressed worry at the HIV/AIDS epidemic ravaging sub-Saharan Africa. He said the region has no choice but to step up the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"HIV/AIDS is not only a national problem but also a regional one. I am encouraged and pleased to know that experts addressed as a special theme the issue of HIV/AIDS and gender equality.

"HIV/AIDS is a menacing challenge which must receive all individual and collective attention," he said. Lt. Gen Shikapwasha said gender activists, who have already done a lot to lobby government to implement the Beijing Platform for Action must not relent in their efforts.

And SADC secretariat programme officer Christine Warioba said the sub-region had steep challenges ahead in implementing the Beijing Platform for action which sets out 12 critical areas of concern, including health and HIV/AIDS, poverty and women and the economy.

Ms Warioba said the majority of SADC countries were far from fulfilling the Beijing Platform for Action.

"Among the key challenges which members states face are poverty and HIV/AIDS. These impact differently on women and men and boys and girls but it is women and girls who carry the heaviest burdens. SADC must resolve these problems," she said.

The Beijing World conference on women took place in China in September 1995.

GENDER FOCUS – 06/05/2004

Ten years after Beijing: HIV/AIDS still a menace

BY PAULINE BANDA

HIV/AIDS is still the stickiest issue among the critical areas of concern identified at the Beijing World Conference on Women almost ten years ago.

The epidemic is causing a sense of despair in the sub-region because of its complex nature. Experts reviewing the achievements and challenges of the post-Beijing era at the just-ended sub-regional meeting in Lusaka dubbed Beijing+10 were visibly concerned at the supersonic speed the HIV/AIDS virus was ravaging sub-Saharan Africa.

HIV/AIDS is mainly transmitted through sexual contact, which is why it is doubly difficult to deal with. The experts, who are laying ground for a similar meeting of SADC ministers, are clearly finding it difficult to galvanise support for the fight against HIV/AIDS.

According to recent statistics, HIV/AIDS threatens to wipe out at least 72 million people from the face of sub-Saharan Africa by 2010.

Apart from HIV/AIDs and health, other critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action are women and the media, education and training, economy, poverty, gender-based violence, girl child, environment, decision-making, human rights of women, conflict prevention and management and institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women.

Experts are having headaches over HIV/AIDS, which the co-chairperson of the Lusaka meeting, Gender in Development Division (GIDD) permanent secretary, Auxillia Ponga, says may "sink the region into oblivion."

During general discussions as the meeting progressed, Dr Ponga said the rate at which AIDS was spreading was "extremely frightening" and the only viable alternative was for people to check their sexual behaviour.

Dr Ponga was buttressing the point of a gender expert from the Botswana Tebatso Menyatso who said she was at a loss as to what to do about HIV/AIDS.

"How do you control something which happens between two people behind closed doors?" Ms Menyatso said, adding "This is the difficulty we have in dealing with HIV/AIDS. When emotions are involved, things become highly complicated."

Ms Menyatso is the principle gender officer in the department of women's affairs under the Botswana Ministry of Home Affairs.

She observed that even people who were well schooled and knew everything about the dangers of HIV/AIDS still have unprotected sex and contract the virus, which causes HIV/AIDS.

"I don't understand how two very intelligent and beautiful people can ignore all they have heard about HIV/AIDS. I personally don't know how we can get around this problem," Ms Menyatso said, shaking her head in despair and "straying" into her native setswana.

Part of the transmission of HIV/AIDS is attributed to ignorance but the expert said it was disheartening to know that highly educated people were knowingly getting themselves infected.

"It is such a pity that even educated people lock themselves up and eat the apple any way they like because they believe that they are expressing love," she said.

Ms Menyato was visibly moved, considering that Botswana is one of the sub-Saharan African countries worst hit by HIV/AIDS. The despair spread throughout the conference room at the Taj Pamodzi Hotel, igniting passionate discussions among participants.

The emotions were understandable because women are unable to negotiate safer sex and avoid contracting HIV/AIDS.

Their biological make-up doubles their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS infection. Women do not have the capacity to avoid infection because many are economically weak and resort to transactional sex for a living.

The Tswana delegate said human emotions were difficult to control and gender and HIV/AIDS experts in the sub-region have an uphill task to control the spread of the pandemic.

Adding her voice to the debate, Dr Ponga said women were putting themselves at an even greater risk by insisting on getting married for traditional and cultural reasons.

"There are women who believe that they can only walk with their heads high if they are married. So, they are going ahead to marry men who are half gone because they have to be Mrs somebody," Dr Ponga said.

"Is that normal, does it really make sense?" Dr Ponga said adding that she knew of women who were getting married to sick men out of sheer desperation for "social status."

"I really don't understand. This is a case of women getting into a union knowing fully well about their risk of infection," she said.

Dr Ponga said the advent of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) may well be "a passport" for some people who think they can now have sex the way they want.

"Some people are now thinking even if they contract HIV/AIDS, they can fall back on ARVs and prolong their lives. This is really sad," she told over 100 participants.

Dr Ponga said many people do not understand the complex nature of ARVs, which cannot be taken on an empty stomach. "Considering that ARVs go with food, we must now begin asking the people who are providing ARVs if these medicines will come with a food package otherwise they will be of little help," she said.

Dr Ponga said poverty had exacerbated HIV/AIDS. People who are on ARVs and do not have adequate food may end up dying earlier than expected. Even the distribution of drugs is not equitable. The rich have more access because they can afford the high costs. The poor, mainly women, die miserable deaths.

If both the husband and wife are suffering from AIDS, the husband is more likely to be on ARVs because he has more control over family resources.

There was also a clarion call on gender and HIV/AIDS activists to lead by example. There is usually a tendency for experts to be hypocritical. They preach one thing and do the exact opposite.

"We must be role models as experts. We must practice what we preach otherwise the people we are advising will not take us seriously," one participant said.

The post-Beijing gender picture is generally bleak and HIV/AIDS has just made things worse, the experts say.

HIV/AIDS has affected all and sundry and has a myriad of attendant problems, including maternal mortality. Some of the cases of maternal mortality, which is also on the upswing in the sub-region, are due to HIV/AIDS.

And stigma is not waning, even among people who are supposed to know better. It exists at all levels of life, making it doubly difficult for those who are infected to come out and seek help.

They would rather die in their homes than face torment from society. Stigma is a problem across the region and experts must double their efforts to reduce it and encourage those who are suffering to come out and educate others.

The experts want to see governments in the SADC dealing more pro-actively with HIV/AIDS by adopting various multi-pronged approaches.

The economic empowerment of women is key to reducing the infection rate. It is a notorious fact that many women resort to transactional sex because they are unable to feed themselves. It follows that if they are helped to access means of livelihood, they may dump commercial sex which puts them at great risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

Sexual violence (rape, defilement, incest) are the other thorny issues related to HIV/AIDS. Experts are trying to draw the attention of SADC governments to sexual violence and its dangers. A communique of SADC gender and women's empowerment non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is emphatic on combating sexual violence.

The NGOs are demanding a pro-active approach to gender violence, including criminalizing wilful HIV/AIDS infection and marital rape and other forms of sexual violence which double the adverse impact of HIV/AIDS.

The meeting of experts has ended but the challenges facing women in the post-Beijing era are very much alive and begging for even greater attention.

GENDER FOCUS

Beijing+10: NGOs demand progress

BY PAULINE BANDA

WOMEN must have a greater say on economic policies as part of a strategy to enhance their economic welfare, a consortium of Southern African Development Community (SADC) pro-development NGOs have proposed.

The NGOs, who were part of last week's Beijing+10 decade review meeting of experts in Lusaka, demanded that SADC government make women part of the economic decision-making process to enhance development.

Across SADC currently, economic policy is male-dominated, making it difficult for women to benefit from the economy as much as men do.

In a 17-page communiqué released after a caucus of NGOs, which took place at Lusaka's Taj Pamodzi Hotel on April 25, participants observed that most of the socio-economic problems women face stem from lack of economic empowerment.

POVERTY/ ECONOMY

The SADC NGOs are worried about the continued feminisation of poverty in the sub-region and are urging governments to pay particular attention to poverty alleviation programmes.

"We acknowledge the commitments made by SADC governments to eradicate poverty. Despite the concerted efforts of the leadership of the region, there has been a huge increase of poverty among the region's populations. Women and girls form a startling 70 per cent of those living in extreme poverty," the communiqué reads.

Women usually have to endure the hardships of cross-border trade and other menial businesses in the private sector to earn a living. In the process of struggling to make ends meet, many are exposed to different hazards, particularly HIV/AIDS.

"As AIDS increases the numbers of the infirm in our populations, women and girls have been overburdened with the twin responsibilities of home-based care giving and economic production at the household and community level. All this is an environment of globalisation and economic neo-liberalism," the communiqué says.

Women are heading many households with the meagre resources and according to participants, "the scenario of female-headed households provides overwhelming evidence of the feminisation of poverty in our region."

The NGOs also observe that debt servicing and economic Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) have "disproportionately harmed women, in many cases forcing them to adopt additional mechanisms for economic survival which have in most cases, included transactional sex."

"Given the region's phenomenal burden of HIV and AIDS, it is critical to provide lasting, rooted solutions that eliminate the economic impoverishment and oppression of women," the communiqué reads.

According to NGO research, SAPs have not benefited women and girls. "Infact, economic structural adjustment programmes have seriously affected the direction of expenditure to social services of health and education, sectors which women and girls are supposed to derive great benefit from."

Despite being in the majority across SADC, women are highly marginalised in economic decision-making. They do not have access to or control over resources and "have remained locked into micro-credit, small-scale loans and income generating projects which have broadly failed to uplift women permanently from poverty."

In view of these concerns, the NGOs are urging SADC governments to do the following, as a matter of priority:

- Ensure that women form no less than 50 per cent of all bodies that make decisions on economic policy
- Democratise the economic decision-making process -all parliamentary committees responsible for finance, industry and commerce and trade must have no less than 50 per cent of women as its members and ensure that 50 per cent of all economic resources are targeted towards directly benefiting women and that 50 per cent of all macro-economic, substantive trade and industry business opportunities are made available to women
- Develop monitoring mechanisms to measure the impactof economic policies Ensure that there be a concerted effort to invest in infrastructure to bring resources closer to home and reduce the burden of women's care work
- Ensure that by December 2006, all countries in the SADC region should conduct a time-use study and develop indicators to account for the work performed by women as unpaid care work in national accounts.
- Ensure that by 2006, all SADC countries adopt pro-poor gender responsive budgeting as the approach for allocating resources at the national and local government levels
- Adopt macro-economic and monetary policy frameworks that are pro-poor and likely to create a trickle down effect
- Enforce laws that guarantee that women form no less than 50 per cent of the beneficiaries of land redistribution schemes and have access to, control over and ownership of land in their own right

But NGOs do not intend to sit idle as these proposals are made. They have given themselves tasks. They will develop parallel structures to monitor the implementation of macro-economic policies on women and girls and provide expertise on gender responsive budgeting to all stakeholders for effective implementation,

among other responsibilities.

DECISION MAKING

The NGOs are also worried about inequality between men and women in power sharing and decision-making at all levels and hope to see several interventions by SADC governments to strike a balance.

They propose meeting the African Union's target of 50 per cent female representation in managerial and decision-making positions in all parastatals, public institutions, regional bodies, media institutions, the judiciary, the public service and trade unions.

The communique says government must also endeavour to "enact special measures to increase women's participation in structures and policy-making processes at all levels from the village to national and regional levels and redefine political priorities to ensure that good leadership, national democracy and governance reflects women's specific concerns, values, experiences and needs."

VIOLENCE

On violence against women, the communiqué proposes that SADC governments must:

- Ensure that they make and protect budgetary provisions for implementing measures to protect women and girls from violence
- Implement judicial reforms by putting in place gender sensitive structures to provide legal services and counselling for women and girls seeking protection from violence
- Enact legislation that makes marital rape a criminal offence - all countries enact legislation that criminalises domestic violence and sexual offences committed in both the public and private spheres
- Provide post-sexual violence medical therapies for women and girls, especially those therapies that prevent and reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STI)s
- Report substantively at the annual meeting of ministers on the extent of violence against women, measures taken to eradicate violence against women and targets for the following year on reducing further violence against women

HEALTH

On unequal access to health care and related services, SADC NGOs would like to see governments provide expectant mothers with anti retrovirals (ARVs) to reduce parent-to-child transmission of HIV and ensure that once HIV-positive women have given birth, they are placed on comprehensive ARV treatment programmes for their own health. SADC governments must also remove user fees for all women seeking health care and reduce maternal mortality and underweight births, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.

EDUCATION

On education and training, governments must promote the re-entry policy (returning to school after delivery), revise and rewrite all curricula in a gender responsive manner. Women's rights and those of the girl child are also a source of concern, which SADC NGOs would like to see governments address. The NGOs are seeking stiffer penalties for perpetrators of incest, victim-friendly measures to encourage children to report sexual abuse and legislation to protect girl children from abduction and child labour.

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

Women's human rights and the general advancement of women are also a source of worry. Many SADC countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) but implementation has been painfully slow, resulting in blatant violations of women's human rights.

On the whole, SADC NGOs would want to see an environment where everybody thrives on an equal basis, with equal opportunities. Their cry is to see the Beijing Platform for Action, which spells out critical areas of concern to women, children and other vulnerable groups, put into action.

The NGOs represented included the umbrella body in Zambia, the NGOCC and the Harare Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC-WIDSAA) who were instrumental in initiating the meeting of NGOs on Beijing+10 achievements, successes, failures and challenges.

The NGO meeting was followed by another of gender experts, which lay ground for a meeting of ministers in charge of gender.

Note that Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Radio & T.V.; Radio Choice FM, Radio QFM & Radio Phoenix Covered this as news items.

2 • HOME NEWS

THE POST, Monday April 26, 2004

Failure to amend Bill of Rights will affect women - Kanyanga

By McDonald Chipenzi

NON-GOVERNMENTAL Organisations Co-ordinating Committee executive director Grace Kanyanga yesterday said government's rejection of holding a referendum to review the Bill of Rights casts a dark shadow on the rights of women.

And Kanyanga said Zambia would not attain the 30 per cent women representation in decision making by 2005 because of the slow pace of addressing gender matters.

In an interview at Pamodzi Hotel in Lusaka, Kanyanga said the Zambian government had a good opportunity to enshrine women's rights during the constitution review of the republican constitution process.

She said women would lose a good opportunity to have their rights reviewed if government continues to insist that holding a referendum would be expensive.

"Government's argument that holding a referendum will be very expensive, gives no hope for the women to have their rights enshrined in the republican constitution and Zambia women are losing out," Kanyanga said.

She said the on-going constitution review would have accorded the government the opportunity to review the Bill of Rights so that women's rights were included also.

Kanyanga urged government to turn its pronouncement for gender matters into concrete commitments and actions.

And Kanyanga said the slow pace at which Zambia was taking in implementing the 30 percent gender representation in parliament and decision-making positions by the year 2005 was very worrying.

And Kanyanga said the meeting for the NGO Focal Point working session held at the Taj Pamodzi Hotel yesterday was in preparation for the regional ministers' Sub-regional Decade Review meeting on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing +10) to be held in Lusaka today to review the successes and failures in the implementation of the 1994 Beijing declaration on gender in the past 10 years.

Kanyanga however, said so much had been achieved in the country on gender.

She was gratified that gender matters were now on the top of the national agenda coupled with the drawing of the National Gender Policy in 2001 by the government.

And Southern African Research and Documentation Centre (SARDC) regional deputy head of gender programmes Barbara Lopi observed that the implementation of the 1994 Beijing Gender Declaration had scored some

successes, constraints and challenges.

Lopi said the implementation of gender programmes could not be achieved because there were resource limitations and lack of strong institutional mechanisms.

She said the holding of a

SADC gender and women's empowerment NGO Focal Points working session yesterday, was aimed at making strategic inputs to the major needy and priority areas NGOs were lagging behind in, especially the 30 per cent women

representation in decision making.

"We want to come up with a common agenda so that we speak with a united voice at the ministers' meeting slated for tomorrow (today)," Lopi said.

He said only three countries in Southern African region had reached the 30 per cent women



Kanyanga - the move has cast a dark cloud on women's rights

daily mail 26/04/2004

Zambia Daily mail
26/04/2004

FROM : NGOCC

NGOCC casts doubt over constitution

By MUZIYA
MUTUNGWA

THE Non-Governmental Co-ordinating Committee (NGOCC) has expressed doubt that Zambia will enshrine women's rights in the Constitution. NGOCC executive director, Grace Kanyanga, explained in an interview yesterday that enshrining of women's rights in the Constitution

calls for a referendum.

"Right now the constitution is being reviewed but the referendum is no where near the limelight," she said.

However, Ms Kanyanga said it was gratifying that gender was now on the national agenda and a national gender policy was drawn up in 2000.

Ms Kanyanga said this in an interview at a SADC women's

empowerment NGO focal point working session.

The one day session was a strategic input into the Southern African Decade Review meeting on the implementation of the Beijing platform for Action (Beijing+10) which will begin in Lusaka today.

She said the SADC requirement of 30 per cent representation in decision making by

2005 still called for more implementation.

Ms Kanyanga said there was still much progress to be done and called for more political will if it was to be attained.

And Southern African Research and Documentation Centre-Women in Development deputy programme officer, Barbara Lopi, said the working session was meant to equip the NGOs with analytical data before the main meeting today.

PHONE NO. : 260 1227514

12 NOV. 2004 11:46AM P1