



QUESTIONNAIRE

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION, 1995
AND
THE COMMONWEALTH PLAN OF ACTION ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
(1995) AND ITS UPDATE (2000 – 2005)

This questionnaire has been prepared for National Women's Machineries by the Gender Section, Social Transformation Programmes Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Information and statistics captured from it will be used to record progress, best practice, constraints and emerging issues in gender equality for:

- (a) A **Special Report** on progress in gender and development in Commonwealth countries since the 1995 Beijing conference to be prepared for the 7th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministerial Meeting (7WAMM) in 2004. This publication will also be the Commonwealth's contribution to discussions at the Fifth World Conference on Women in 2005 (Beijing +10);
- (b) **The Commonwealth Secretary-General's 2003 Biennial Report to Heads of Government** on implementation of the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development between 2001 – 2003 which will be tabled at the **Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting** in Abuja, Nigeria, in December 2003; and
- (c) Other related policy, research and website materials produced by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The deadline for receipt of the completed questionnaire is 31 August 2003.

**PLEASE FILL IN THE NAME OF
YOUR COUNTRY HERE:**

GUIDELINES FOR COUNTRY RESPONSES

Purpose of the Questionnaire

1. To provide an opportunity for each country to inform and share with the rest of the Commonwealth progress on the promotion of gender equality in development since the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. This will enable the Commonwealth Secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on pan-Commonwealth progress in gender equality since 1995 (previous country reports will also be drawn on) to be produced for 7WAMM; and
2. To enable each country to report in more detail and depth progress in the two-year period (April 2001 – May 2003) under the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development (1995 – 2000) and its Update (2000 – 2005).

In addressing all questions, please focus on successes, best cases, case studies, innovative policies and practices and outstanding challenges that indicate progress and which you wish to share with your Commonwealth colleagues. Any interactions you have had involving civil society should be highlighted. It is important that you make a clear distinction in recording progress from the period before in your summaries or analyses.

If available, please attach the most recent National Reports on CEDAW and Progress on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the completed questionnaire.

IDENTITY OF RESPONDENT

National Women's Machinery Address and Contact Details

<i>Official name of NWM:</i>		
<i>Name of Head of NWM:</i>		
<i>Direct Tel. No:</i>	<i>Direct Fax:</i>	<i>Email:</i>
<i>Address of NWM:</i>		
<i>Tel No:</i>	<i>Fax:</i>	<i>Email:</i>
<i>Website:</i>		

Reporting Officer's Name: _____

Contact telephone, fax, email: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

You may download the questionnaire from our website: www.thecommonwealth.org/gender
If you wish to receive this questionnaire by email, please contact m.roberts@commonwealth.int or gad@commonwealth.int

Kindly mark an 'X' in the following box if you do **not** wish to have your report posted on the Commonwealth Gender Website

Please return questionnaires by **31 August 2003** to:

QUESTIONNAIRE 2003
Gender Section, Social Transformation Programmes Division
Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House
Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, United Kingdom

Contact person: Mrs Maryse Roberts, Chief Programme Officer
Tel: +44 (0)20 77476467/6459/6461 Fax: +44 (0)20 79301647
Email: m.roberts@commonwealth.int Or gad@commonwealth.int
Website: www.thecommonwealth.org/gender

PART A – PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION SINCE 1995

Countries are requested to provide a summary of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action **since 1995**. Responses will be synthesised into an overview report of progress in Commonwealth countries, identifying priority areas for action, best mechanisms and achievements, especially those resulting in change on the ground, constraints and implementation issues, as well as emerging issues of concern.

Please use extra pages for your answers as necessary.

Q.1 The Beijing Platform for Action outlined 12 critical areas of concern with accompanying strategic objectives and actions. In the boxes, please rank by number (1, 2 etc down to 12) issues that have been of priority concern and action for your country since 1995.

Women in poverty.

(Macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address needs and efforts of women in poverty; laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources; access for women to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions; gender-based methodologies and research to address the feminisation of poverty.)

Education and training of women.

(Equal access to education; eradicate illiteracy among women; improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education; non-discriminatory education and training; sufficient resources for and monitor educational reform; promote lifelong education and training for girls and women.)

Women and health.

(Women's access throughout their lives to appropriate, affordable, quality health care, information and related services; preventive programmes that promote women's health; gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually-transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues; research and information on women's health; more resources and monitor follow-up for women's health.)

Violence against women.

(Integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women; study causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures; eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking.)

Women and armed conflict.

(Participation of women in conflict resolution, at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation; reduce excessive military expenditures and control availability of armaments; promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations; promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace; protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women; assistance to women of colonies and non-self-governing territories.)

Women and the economy.

(Women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources; women equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade; provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women; strengthen women's capacity and commercial networks; eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination; harmonisation of work and family responsibilities for women and men.)

Women in power and decision-making.

(Women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making; increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.)

Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women.

(Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies; integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects; generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.)

Human rights of women.

(Promote human rights of women through full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially CEDAW; equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice; legal literacy.)

Women in the media.

(Participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communications; balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.)

Women and the environment.

(Women active in environmental decision-making at all levels; integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development); mechanisms at national, regional, international levels to assess impact of development and environmental policies on women.)

The girl-child.

(Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl-child, negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls; promote, protect rights of girl-child and increase awareness of needs and potential; eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training; eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition; eliminate economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work; eradicate violence against the girl-child; strengthen role of family in improving status of girl-child.)

Q.2 Summarise below your country's progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) since 1995. Concentrate on your top 3 or 4 ranked priority areas. Include reasons why these are priority areas for your country and how progress has been measured (include examples of activities, any legislation and policies, new machineries/structures and statistics showing change). Describe in greater detail one or two of your country's top achievements or best case practices. Cite any constraints and implementation issues in any of the 12 PFA areas which have yet to be overcome.

- Q.3** What are the top 2 or 3 areas concerning gender equality which you feel your country and your region need to concentrate on in the next five years? Why? Describe any plans to implement them and any constraints.
- Q.4** Outline the establishment and growth of the National Women's Machinery (NWM) in your country since 1995. (How has its structure changed – attach organisational charts – as well as its mandates and responsibilities during this period? Describe and attach statistics on how staffing levels have changed since 1995, how budget allocations have changed, and the level of head of NWM, e.g. department head, permanent secretary, minister)
- Q.5** Critically assess any support/assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat which has helped your country implement the Beijing PfA (e.g. through Commonwealth ministerial decisions, Secretariat technical assistance, meetings, workshops, training, publications).

PART B – PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH PLAN OF ACTION

Countries are requested to provide a summary of progress between **May 2001 and April 2003** in implementing the Commonwealth Plan of Action (PoA) on Gender and Development (1995) and its Update (2000 – 2005). Please include best practices, case studies and statistics as appropriate. Attach diagrams and charts as relevant. In framing responses, you may need to liaise with relevant ministries, statistics bureaus, commissions, NGOs and other agencies. Use separate pages for your responses as necessary.

Q.6 **What have been the top four priorities under the Commonwealth's areas of strategic focus in advancing gender equality in your country between May 2001 and April 2003?** Please rank these by number (1, 2 etc) in the relevant boxes. Indicate why these are priorities in your country and summarise implementation developments for this period. Include statistics to show development or otherwise.

The Commonwealth areas of strategic focus are:

- 6.1 - Gender mainstreaming** (includes national mainstreaming policies, mainstreaming in specific sectors, e.g. local, social, political, economic; or in development issues, e.g. education, health, poverty reduction. Please provide sex-disaggregated statistics if available.)
- 6.2 - Women's human rights, including violence against women** (include new policies, legislation, training. Attach most recent copy of CEDAW Report and national programmes on VAW if possible. ALSO include statistics on cases of reported domestic violence and any other gender-based violence.)
- 6.3 - Political empowerment and participation in conflict resolution and the peace process** (includes women's representation in parliament and other levels of political participation, in government, public service; women's involvement in conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution. Please provide statistics and/or percentages and case studies on: (a) numbers of women and men elected to parliament, State/provincial assemblies. Local government; (b) percentage of women in the national cabinet, percentage of female Chief Executive Offices in the private sector; (c) number and percentage of females in professional and senior management ranks of public service.)

- 6.4 - Macroeconomic issues, including globalisation, trade and gender budgets** (including integration of gender issues in structural adjustment, debt, trade, investment liberalisation, gender analysis of government budget allocations and expenditures, women in the informal economy, gender impact of economic policies.)

6.4(i) - In September 2002, Commonwealth Finance Ministers agreed to make progress in introducing and/or furthering implementation of gender-responsive budget initiatives - this is to be reviewed in 2004. What progress has been made? (policies, gender impact analysis, progress of existing initiatives.)

- 6.5 - How have gender issues been integrated into your country's programmes to meet the Millennium Development Goals?** (Please provide examples and/or attach relevant national programmes. If available, the country report on meeting MDGs should be attached.)

- 6.6 - Poverty reduction** (existence of National Poverty Reduction Policy/Programme, extent of integration of gender issues, and participation of National Women's Machinery, examples of poverty reduction initiatives including gender issues.)

- 6.7 - HIV/AIDS** (how gender issues in HIV/AIDS have been addressed, whether gender issues are integrated in national plans, health policy and programmes, and national HIV/AIDS policies, programmes, provide details of policies and strategic actions and state partners involved, e.g. governmental, non-governmental, intergovernmental and development agencies. Please provide statistics or attach national plans.)

PART C – PARTNERSHIPS

Q.7 Does your regional development organisation (e.g. CARICOM, AU, IOC, SAARC, ASEAN, Pacific Forum) include gender equality and development issues as an integral part of its development strategies and assistance programmes? (for example, sharing regional gender-based data or gender development indexes, gender policies, development assistance, etc.)

7(i) - Does (or would) such inclusion help your country in its own efforts to implement strategies in its priority areas? If YES, briefly outline how this helps (or would help)

Q.8 Please describe any good practice partnerships in gender and development at regional level in your region (e.g. with the private sector, NGOs, church, multilateral organisations.)

PART D – NATIONAL WOMEN’S MACHINERIES

Countries are requested to provide as much detail as possible on the structure, role, achievements and constraints of National Women’s Machineries (NWMs). Sharing experiences, best practices and lessons learned will provide other Commonwealth countries with tools with which to strengthen their own NWMs. Where possible, please provide examples on best practice and best cases.

Q.9 How is the National Women’s Machinery (NWM) in your country structured (a) in relation to government departments, National Commissions and/or other agencies; and (b) internally? (Highlight any changes over the past 2 years and attach organisational charts. What is the budget allocation for the NWM and has it changed in the past 2 years? What percentage of the national budget is the allocation to the NWM? What, if any, is the budget allocation for gender mainstreaming activities?)

Q.10 Describe the best achievements/outcomes of your National Women's Machinery between May 2001 and April 2003 within your top priority areas. Illustrate with comparative statistics to show change. How did these successes come about? (e.g. policy, legislation, inter-ministry/department co-ordination, creation of new structures, training, co-operation with civil society, greater media and public awareness? How has policy made a change in gender development on the ground? Attach photographs, graphs, charts if possible.)

Q.11 Which government departments does your NWM enjoy the closest relations with and how has this helped to progress gender development and equality? (Give examples from the period May 2001 to April 2003. Any planned initiatives to improve collaboration across departments/ministries?)

Q.12 Does your NWM work with civil society and non-governmental organisations to progress gender development and equality? Name some of these organisations and describe successful collaborations and their outcomes. What changes would you like to see to improve such partnerships?

Q.13 Describe if, and how, the Commonwealth Secretariat's programmes and activities have contributed to your work as described above, if applicable. What recommendations would you make to improve the role and support by the Commonwealth Secretariat to advance gender equality in your country and region? Please refer to the attached 6WAMM mandates/actions table if necessary.)

PART E – REPORTS AND ATTACHMENTS

Q.14 Would you prefer to read country reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action (mark one with an 'X')

- In full Summaries only On CD-ROM Online/website

Q.15 Have you attached the following with this questionnaire:

- A copy of your country's latest CEDAW Report? Or other docs, e.g Millennium Development Goal National Report, any national plans/programmes?
- Charts on the organisational structure of your National Women's Machinery showing (a) its external relationship within government ministries, departments and other agencies; and (b) its internal structure?
- Any photographs, graphs and charts to illustrate any good practice, training, etc described in this questionnaire?
- Any changes in contact details for National Women's Machinery? We still have difficulty contacting some countries/regions by telephone, fax or email. Please let us have your updated addresses, telephone and fax numbers and email addresses. Other alternative addresses for the forwarding of correspondence are also welcome.

Date: 30 May 2003