

ATTACHMENT (B)

BEIJING + 5 and +10: 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 (Beijing).

The Mission Statement of the Platform says:

- The Platform for Action is an agenda for women's empowerment
- Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights
- Equality between women and men is a condition for people-centered sustainable development

The twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly on “*Women 2000 gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century*” took place at the United Nations headquarters in New York from 5 June to 9 June 2000 and adopted a Political Declaration and outcome document titled “further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”.

In addition to further action on the twelve critical areas of concern, emphasis was placed on women's access to decision-making particularly in peace keeping processes, gender-sensitive approaches to HIV/AIDS and humanitarian crises, changing patterns of migratory flows, new technologies, violence against women, including trafficking and in armed conflict, and the realization of women's full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

The 1995 Platform identified **12 critical areas of concern**:

1. The burden of poverty on women
2. Inequalities, inadequacies, and unequal access to education and training
3. Inadequate conditions of health for many women
4. Violence against women
5. The impact of armed conflict and other deep-rooted conflicts on women
6. Inequality in all realms of economic structures and policies
7. Inequalities in all power and decision-making structures and processes
8. Insufficient mechanisms to promote the advancement of women
9. Lack of respect and inadequate protection of the human rights of women
10. Media stereotyping and inadequate access for women to communications systems
11. Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and the environment
12. Discrimination and violation of the rights of girl children

BEIJING +10 PRESENTS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR ACTION

BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1(A) Women and poverty

- A.1. Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty
- A.2. Revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources
- A.3. Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions
- A.4. Develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty

2(B) Education and training of women

- B.1. Ensure equal access to education
- B.2. Eradicate illiteracy among women
- B.3. Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education
- B.4. Develop non-discriminatory education and training
- B.5. Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms
- B.6. Promote life-long education and training for girls and women

3(C) Women and health

- C.1. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services
- C.2. Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health
- C.3. Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues

4(D) Violence against women

- D.1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women
- D.2. Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures

- D.3. Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking

5(E) Women and armed conflict

- E.1. Increase the 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
- E.2. Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments
- E.3. Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations
- E.4. Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace
- E.5. Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women
- E.6. Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories

6(F) Women and the economy

- F.1. Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources
- F.2. Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade
- F.3. Provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women
- F.4. Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks
- F.5. Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination
- F.6. Promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men

7(G) Women in power and decision-making

- G.1. Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making.
- G.2. Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.

8(H) Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

- H.1. Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies.
- H.2. Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects.
- H.3. Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.

9(I) Human rights of women

- I.1. Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
- I.2. Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice.
- I.3. Achieve legal literacy.

10(J) Women and the media

- J.1. Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication.
- J.2. Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.

11(K) Women and the environment

- K.1. Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels.
- K.2. Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development
- K.3. Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women

12(L) The girl child

- L.1. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child
- L.2. Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls
- L.3. Promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential
- L.4. Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training
- L.5. Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition
- L.6. Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work
- L.7. Eradicate violence against the girl child
- L.8. Promote the girl child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life
- L.9. Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl child

Source: United Nations (2004). Document E/CN.6/2005/2, Report adopted at the Forty-Ninth Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, 28 February -11 March 2005.