

**EX.CL/376 (XII) -b**

**SYNTHESIS OF REPORTS OF MEMBER STATES ON THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION ON  
GENDER EQUALITY IN AFRICA (SDGEA)**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SYNTHESIS OF REPORTS FROM MEMBER STATES

### INTRODUCTION

African women seized the opportunity of the transformation of the OAU to the AU to lobby for greater inclusion of women in the Constitutive Act and the transition process. Their efforts resulted in the decision by the OAU Council of Ministers to support consultations to better define the role of women in the transition process. Thus, the gender parity principle in the appointment/election of the top leadership of the Commission was adopted by the AU Summit in South Africa in 2002. A decision was also taken that led to the creation of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate to mainstream gender in all activities and programmes of the Commission.

2. The gender parity principle was concretized in 2003 at the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State (HOS) and Government in Maputo, Mozambique, with women accounting for 50 per cent of elected Commissioners. Also, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women was adopted with the objective of making the African human rights system more gender responsive.

3. To further its objective of promoting gender equality at the continental level, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government at their 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2004, adopted the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA). The SDGEA reaffirms the commitment of the Heads of State to the principle of gender equality as enshrined in Article 4 (L) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, as well as other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various international, regional, and sub-regional instruments and initiatives on women's rights.

4. In the SDGEA, the HOS and Government agreed to promote gender equality and women's rights in nine thematic areas namely: HIV/AIDS and other related infectious diseases; peace and security; children's rights; gender-based violence; women's human rights; land, property and inheritance rights; education; and, to ensure and the signing and ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

### AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION'S (AUC) EFFORT AND PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE SDGEA

5. The following activities were undertaken by the AU Commission, as part of its institution-strengthening programme:

- **The Gender Audit-** The Commission has completed a gender audit of the AU Commission by the end of 2006. The Audit indicated that although some progress has been made, much more needs to be done in order to achieve the

AU's commitments and objectives on gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. The AU Commission commits itself to implement the recommendations of the gender audit in its next strategic plan.

- **The Gender Policy-** The development of the AU's gender policy is at an advanced stage. When the policy is adapted it will provide a framework for gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in Africa.
- **The Five Year Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan-** The development of a Five Year Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Plan (GMSP) has been completed for the Social and Political cluster of Departments. The plan will provide a framework for AUC, Regional Economic Commissions (RECs), AU organs and Member States in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment as well as contribute to the operationalization of the Gender Policy.
- **Building Internal Capacity to Mainstream Gender-** The Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) in collaboration with UN African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), has piloted a course on gender responsive economic policy making in Africa and produced a handbook on good practices in mainstreaming gender in different sectors.

6. **Partnerships and Advocacy-** The WGDD has collaborated with CSOs, international organizations, RECs and other AU Directorates to address gender and women's empowerment issues in Africa. In collaboration with its partners, the WGDD launched an Advocacy Campaign on Younger Women's Higher Vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and on Strengthening Women's Voices in Peace Processes, among others.

## **IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

7. The First AU Conference of Ministers in Charge of Women Affairs and Gender held in October 2005 in Dakar, Senegal adopted the Guidelines for Reporting, and an Implementation Framework on the SDGEA by AU Member States. Thus, the Guidelines and Framework are intended to provide guidance regarding the implementation of the SDGEA, as each country has its own national plans for implementing various international commitments. The timeframe for the actions is five years, and this will be reviewed every five years.

8. The implementation of the SDGEA will require Member States to:

- Strengthen the political will to achieve gender equality at the local, national and regional levels;
- Incorporate a gender perspectives into the planning processes of all ministries and departments of government and integrate gender dimensions into all phases of sectoral planning cycles, including analysis, development appraisals, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes, projects and budgets;

- Build in a gender perspective in national development frameworks;
- Empower and increase the capacity and resources of national gender machineries;
- Forge links between government, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to ensure a co-ordination of efforts and resources; and
- Strengthen and simplify systems for institutionalized collection and use of sex-disaggregated data in statistical analysis, to reveal how policies affect women and men differently.

9. Member States are also encouraged to include information on the implementation of the SDGEA in their reports for the African Peer Review Mechanisms on progress towards gender equality under all objectives of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

### **ASSESSING THE COUNTRY REPORTS AND BEST PRACTICES**

10. It can be argued from the 16 submitted country reports (**Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia**); that the principle of gender equality is now part of the political discourse and/or agenda of reporting governments. In addition to constitutional guarantees, each of the submitting country has at least one institutional mechanism and/or policy framework to ensure the achievement of gender equality in their respective countries.

11. The adoption of the SDGEA reinforced earlier commitments agreed to by African governments. Legal reforms and programs to control the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to promote and protect women's human rights have been instituted in various sectors of the society. Women's representation in politics and decision-making positions and girls enrolment rate in the primary school sector have increased. National programmes and legislation to protect the rights of children have been enacted. International, regional, sub-regional and national instruments have been translated into local languages and disseminated to the public. A lot of progress has been made since the adoption of the SDGEA but a lot more needs to be done to ensure that gender equality is part and parcel of daily life on the African continent.

#### **i) Institutional Mechanisms to promote Gender Equality**

##### **Best Practice:**

Article 132 of the Algerian Constitution prioritizes all ratified international conventions over national laws; Article 19 of the Burundian Constitution states that all international conventions are integral part of the constitution and their applications are not subjected to restrictions.

**ii) Article 1- HIV/AIDS and other Infectious Diseases-** Most of the HIV/AIDS programmes and legislation failed to address the issue of discrimination and/or stigmatisation. In the case of Namibia that has developed a comprehensive policy addressing this problem, the policy is yet to be adopted by the government.

**Best practice:**

Namibia's constitution includes a Bill of Rights that address HIV/AIDS as a human rights issue; an HIV/AIDS charter in employment and education to protect HIV/AIDS victims is in place. Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius and Senegal have criminalized the wilful transmission of HIV/AIDS. Mali provides free ARVs to people living with HIV/AIDS and commemorates December as national HIV/AIDS month. Cote d'Ivoire's declaration of 2006 as the year for the accelerating the control of HIV/AIDS. The change of PMTCT to PPTCT to address gender related stigmatization in Nigeria.

**iii) Article 2: Peace and Security-** Despite UNSC 1325 (2000), most reporting countries completely ignored the issue of women's representation and participation in conflict resolution and management.

**Best Practice:**

The South African government forged partnerships with NGOs to implement UNSC 1325. In addition, the governments of Ghana, Namibia, Mali, Rwanda and South Africa have included women in peace-keeping missions and in preventive diplomacy.

**iv) Article 3: Child Soldiers-** Although most our reporting countries have not experienced the horrors of civil wars and the recruitment of child soldiers, all countries should launch a campaign on the issue because of the increasing use of mercenaries in civil conflicts all over the continent. Member states with laws that contradict international provisions on child's rights should revise their laws to take cognizance of these principles.

**Best Practice:**

In addition to its international commitments and constitutional guarantees protecting children, the governments of Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and Rwanda have initiated programs to end child soldiering in their countries. Signing of cross-country agreements by Mali and Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho and South Africa and among 10 ECOWAS countries to stop trafficking in person and child labour and Nigeria's enactment of a national anti-trafficking law and establishment of an agency to monitor the implementation of the law.

**v) Article 4: Gender-Based Violence-** Most of the initiatives on gender-based violence focus primarily on legislation with very few corresponding program and/or projects to back up legislation. The challenge for most governments is how to marry legislation, the provision of support services and advocacy programs for women to know their rights and access these services.

**Best Practice:**

The South African government extended the annual 16 Days of No Violence Campaign Against Women to a year round activity in 2006. Since 2004, 6<sup>th</sup> February is commemorated as national day against FGM.

**vi) Article 5: Gender Parity Principle- Women's participation in decision-making positions is low.** Governments should put into practice the AU parity principle in the election and appointment of women in politics and public decision-making positions.

**Best Practice:**

The South African government adopted the gender parity principle in 2006.

**vii) Article 6: Women's Human Rights-** All reporting countries have signed and/or ratified various international, regional and sub-regional instruments promoting and protecting women and children's rights. Some have translated these instruments into local languages and disseminated them widely. However, most of them have not enacted laws to further these commitments.

**Best Practice:**

Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Rwanda and South Africa have translated into local languages and distributed national, sub-regional, regional, and international instruments promoting women's human rights.

**viii) Article 7: Women's property rights-** All reporting governments have put in place measures to promote women's property rights, but most have failed to abrogate customary laws that violate this right. Moreover, most reports do not provide statistics on the number of women that have accessed credit facilities or own land.

**Best Practice:**

South Africa abolished the rule of primogenitor in inheritance practices; 49 per cent of beneficiaries of the government's housing subsidy were women. In Algeria, 76.2 per cent of recipients of craft-related funding were women, 22,315 women obtained their farmers card and were thus able to access funding.

**ix) Article 8: Education-** All country reports indicated increased enrolment in primary and secondary education for girls and women's adult literacy rates, and outlined the programs and/ or projects that were put in place to effect such changes.

**Best Practice:**

The Algerian government provides free school supplies, lunches and transportation and since the 2000/2001 school year, 2000AD (Algerian Dinar) is given to every child in the public school system.

**x) Article 9: African Protocol on Women's Rights-** Countries that have not ratified and/or domesticated the Protocol should be urged to do so in the shortest possible time.

**Best Practice:**

The willingness of all reporting countries to ratify and/or domesticate the Protocol shows their commitment to the principle of gender equality.

**THE WAY FORWARD**

12. Country reports should provide for comparisons to be made on the progress being achieved. Sex disaggregated data should also be provided for comparative analysis and for monitoring progress. Legislations should be updated in line with the SDGEA and other commitments and more current statistics provided. Although the AU advocates partnership in the implementation of the SDGEA, most national reports lacked inputs from NGOs.

13. As already observed, considerable success has been noted in the implementation of the SDGEA as well as several challenges. In order to move the SDGEA agenda forward, there is need to first, increase the number of countries submitting their annual reports to the AU for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation process. This can be done by mobilizing country representatives to the AU to convey the importance of submitting annual SDGEA reports to the AU Women, Gender and Development Directorate. This should be followed up at the sub-regional level with the gender focal points in the RECs. The AU Women's Committee has a role to play in this connection.

14. In relation to the issue of NGOs participation in the SDGEA process, the AU has to popularize the Declaration widely among African NGOs, moving beyond its traditional allies to incorporate a broad segment of women's groups across the continent. This initial step should be followed up by encouraging NGOs to have annual forums and submit shadow reports to the AU for consideration.

## **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE SDGEA IN 2004**

This section is an analysis of developments in the efforts of African governments to implement gender equality measures since the unanimous adoption of the SDGEA by African HOS and Government in July 2004. The report pays special attention to constitutional, legal and administrative frameworks that have been put in place as well as practical measures taken to ensure the effective implementation of instruments and policies that promote women's empowerment, the protection of their rights and supports gender equality.

This report, the second in the series of Reports expected from Member States on the implementation of the SDGEA, is a synthesis of country reports from **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Rwanda**. This brings the number of countries that have submitted their first reports to only 16; as a synthesis of country reports from Algeria, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia were considered by the Summit of January 2007.

### **A) THE REPUBLIC OF BURKINA FASO**

#### **THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

Article 1 of Burkina Faso's 1991 Constitution prohibits gender discrimination. The Ministry of Women Affairs, the gender focal points in the various ministries, the national gender policy, and the 2006-10 Action Plan on women are Burkina Faso's institutional mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment.

#### **Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases**

The National HIV/AIDS and STI Council, chaired by the President and the Permanent Secretariat, are the coordinating bodies for HIV/AIDS control. The government's HIV/AIDS control program includes a national AIDS policy, a standard and guide document on voluntary testing, counseling and care and the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). Burkina Faso has 86 Voluntary Testing Centers (VCT) and 6 mobile VCT units. Forty three (43) of the country's fifty five (55) health districts are implementing the PMTCT program. The country's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate dropped from 7.17 per cent to about 2 per cent.

Since 2004, the Malaria prevention activities include the promotion of and sale of subsidized treated bed nets, preventive interval treatment of malaria with Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine (Fansidar), reorientation of the activities of traditional birth attendants and environmental sanitation. In relation to TB, the government provides free screening and care in all the health districts.

## **Article 2: Peace and Security**

Burkina Faso has participated in both UN and AU peace missions by sending military, gendarme and police contingents to Haiti, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, among others.

## **Article: Child Soldiers**

Burkina Faso has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Burkina Faso signed but is yet to ratify the statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Implication of Children in Armed Conflicts. At the local level, Article 33 of the general statute of the armed forces prohibits the recruitment of people under 18.

## **Article 4: Violence Against Women**

Burkina Faso has ratified several international and regional instruments (see details in Commitment 6) which are the bases of its national legislation on the protection of women and girls against violence. At the national level, the Constitution forbids discrimination and recognizes the principle of equality among all Burkinabe; the Criminal Code include clauses banning physical, psychological, sexual or moral violence against women. The general principle for the redress of grievances for acts of violence is noted in Article 1382 of the Civil Code. The Persons and Family Code provides protective measures against domestic violence, such as separate residence, separation from bed and board, divorce, annulment of bigamous marriages, and support payment in case of divorce or separation from bed and board, among others.

In addition to the above, the government has in the last two years built more departmental courts in the eleven (11) judicial jurisdictions and created nine (9) more jurisdictions to bring justice closer to women.

## **Article 5: Gender parity**

The government's development priorities as outlined in its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) reiterate its commitments to equal opportunity in civil and political rights between the sexes. Despite this guarantee, women's representation in politics and public decision-making bodies is low. Currently, there are 5 women out of 35 Ministers, 3 out of 13 Governors, and 18 out of 359 Mayors of urban and rural communes.

## **Article 6: Women's Human Rights**

To ensure the promotion and protection of women's human rights including their right to development, Burkina Faso has signed and/or ratified a number of international and regional instruments on women's human rights. Among these are the United Nations

Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others; the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment; the CEDAW and its optional protocol; the additional protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

As part of the government's sensitization program, CEDAW and its optional protocol were translated into the country's three national languages and field trips were made to the rural areas to sensitize women on citizenship and women's human rights issues.

### **Article 7: Rights to Land, Property and Inheritance**

The Agrarian and Land Reform law and the Urban Development Code enacted in 2006 do not discriminate against women. Article 62 of the Urban Development Code law states that "urban or rural lands in the National Estate should be allocated without distinction based on sex..."

In order to enhance the land security of the underprivileged (women, youth), the following measures were recommended as part of the government's poverty reduction strategy:

- Develop and adopt the implementing instruments of the Agrarian and Land Reform (RAF);
- Development of a communication strategy to disseminate the Agrarian and Land Reform and its regulations;
- Implementation of specific measures relating to women's access to land, shallow waters, and perimeters developed by the state;
- Develop an operational strategy for land security in rural areas through capitalization of ongoing pilot projects; and.
- Guarantee women's access to credit facilities.

### **Article 8: Education**

As part of its commitment to advance women's status through education, the National Assembly adopted the Framework Law on Education which emphasized basic education as a priority. As part of this project,

- A ten year plan basic education plan for the 2000-2009 cycle was adopted in July 1999;
- A girls' education department was established in the Ministry of Education;
- The institution of equal admission quota for boys and girls in satellite schools and non-formal basic education centers;
- \*The "1000 girls" project, a training center for girls under the "National Commitments" program was established. 1000 girls have been trained and integrated 1000 girls into working life since its launch in June 1994;
- An action plan for the girl child has been developed; and
- The distribution of free textbooks.

## **Article 9: Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women**

The Protocol was ratified it on June 09, 2006.

### **B) THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**

#### **Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

In Cameroon, the national Constitution, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, sectoral gender committees in various government ministries and the local chapter of the Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians are the country's institutional and legal framework for gender equality and women's empowerment.

#### **Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases**

As part of the government's HIV/AIDS program, a National AIDS Control Committee was established; the sale of subsidized ART drugs adopted and the PMTCT program was introduced in 2000. Currently, there are 462 sites covering 64 per cent of health districts.

The Roll Back Malaria program is coordinated by a Central Technical Committee with a permanent national secretariat as well as provincial units. The program's focus is on the interval treatment of malaria among pregnant women, the distribution of free treated bed nets and insecticides in all the country's health districts.

#### **Article 2: Peace and Security**

Cameroon has given preference to women's applications for appointment in the United Nations system and the AU. As a result, Cameroonian women were appointed as a judge at the International Criminal Court on War Crimes in Rwanda and Trade and Industry Commissioner at the AU respectively.

#### **Article 3: Child Soldiers**

Cameroon has signed and ratified the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts and Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the additional protocol on the Convention Against Transnational organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking of Persons, especially Women and Children.

#### **Article 4: Gender-Based Violence**

A draft Bill on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence is awaiting parliamentary signature. This Bill complements provisions in the Criminal Code as it deals with offences such as FGM, and sexual harassment which are ignored in the Code. The government has also adopted an Action Plan on FGM. In addition, the Ministry of Women's Affairs

organizes socio-legal clinics to inform women about their rights and the various legal instruments and/or mechanisms available to seek redress.

### **Article 5: Gender Parity**

The government of Cameroon instituted a 30 per cent quota system in favor of women to bridge the gap between women and men in Parliament, and decision-making positions in political parties, the executive, judiciary and local governance. Furthermore, the government has mandated all political parties to rank women high on their electoral list. In addition, a draft Bill Code of Persons and Family to ensure gender equality within the family is awaiting parliamentary signature.

### **Article 6: Women's Human Rights**

Cameroon has ratified virtually all international and regional instruments on women's rights and gender equality. The ratification process on Protocol on the Rights of Women has been initiated. The Social Development Sectoral Strategy adopted in 2005 includes a program to sensitize judges and civil servants in charge of enforcing the law on women's human rights. The labor code recognizes the principle of equal pay for equal work.

### **Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights**

The government has developed institutional mechanisms, programs and project aimed at creating an enabling environment for women to exercise their property rights.

### **Article 8: Education**

The government of Cameroon has introduced a number of measures to reduce the educational disparity between boys and girls and promote gender equality:

- The development and implementation of an Education Sector Strategy which embodies gender equality concerns;
- The abolition of fees in public primary schools in 2001;
- The establishment of a Gender Committee in the Ministry of Education;
- Introduction of a 40 per cent quota in favor of girls in the disbursement of scholarship;
- Free distribution of text books and support to families;
- Introduction of gender-sensitive curricula and text books; and
- The provision of scholarship to the best female students in public examinations to promote female excellence.

### **Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

The Ministry of External Affairs has initiated the ratification process of the Protocol.

## **C) THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE**

### **Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

Articles 1 and 2 of Cote d'Ivoire's second Constitution of August 2000 reaffirmed the country's commitment to gender equality. The Constitution also forbids torture, physical and psychological violence, mutilations and degradation of women. The Ministry on the Status of Women whose mission is to coordinate gender equality interventions, ensures the implementation and follow-up of government's international obligations and national policies on the protection of the family, the promotion of women and gender equality. Toward this end, a Women's White Book, National Action Plan, a gender policy and a Directorate of Gender Equality were adopted and established respectively.

#### **Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases**

The Ministry of AIDS control, the National AIDS Council, the Interdepartmental AIDS control Committee as well as various decentralized bodies and a National HIV/AIDS Control Policy are the government's institutional mechanisms to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As part of its HIV/AIDS control program, the government of Cote d'Ivoire established 18 VCT and 95 PMTCT sites across the country; reduced the cost of ARVs to CFA 3,000 per quarter in 2005; adopted a National Policy on Orphans and Vulnerable Children; conducts IEC programs on the use of condoms among women, men, the youth and military contingents stationed in the country. In addition, medical and paramedical staff were trained on STI/HIV/AIDS care. The government declared 2006 "the year for the acceleration of the prevention of HIV/AIDS" as part of its efforts to combat the spread of the disease.

A National Malaria Control Program was adopted in 1997. Usage of the treated bed nets to prevent the spread of malaria rose from 4 to 7 per cent between 2001 and 2002.

Due to the increasing incidence of tuberculosis between 1999 to 2001, the TB control was removed from the National AIDS/STD/TB Control program and established as an autonomous program in 2001.

#### **Article 2: Peace and Security**

The government, through the Ministry of the Family, Women and Children organized a retreat on "Gender and Peace" in March 2004 for community-based leaders and women's civil society to strengthen their capacities in the management of conflict and post-conflict situations.

### **Article 3: Child Soldiers**

The government of Cote d'Ivoire has signed and ratified most of the International Conventions on the protection of children. These include

- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (ratified in 1991);
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (ratified in 2002);
- Additional Protocol I to the Conventions of Geneva (ratified on September 20, 1989)
- Additional Protocol II to the Conventions of Geneva (ratified on September 20, 1989);
- ILO Convention N° 182 against the Worst Forms of Child Labor and its accompanying Recommendation 190 (ratified on February 7, 2003), as well as
- The definition and implementation of programs for the demobilization and reintegration of associate children
- The sensitization of armed groups and forces on the protection of children in times of conflict; and
- The implementation of the ratification process for the .additional protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

In addition, the Chief of the New Forces issued a statement on the demobilization and reintegration of Child Soldiers, in accordance with UN Resolutions 1539 and 1612. With support from UNICEF, Cote d'Ivoire embarked on its demobilization program for child soldiers in 2004.

### **Article 4: Gender-Based Violence**

In addition to its international obligations, Cote d'Ivoire has enacted several laws prohibiting violence against women. These include Law No 98-757 of December 23, 1998 forbidding FGM and Law No. 98-756 of December 23, 1998 supplementing the the Criminal Code on sexual harassment and early or forced marriage. Decree No 2000-133 of February 23, 2000 reorganizing the Ministry of the Family, Women and Children, established a National Family, Women and Children's Commission, a National Committee on Violence against Women and Children and a Regulation and Protection Directorate. A National Committee to Fight Child Trafficking and Exploitation was also created.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali signed a bilateral cooperation agreement to stop trans-border child trafficking. A permanent monitoring commission was put in place under this agreement. On July 25, 2005, a Multilateral Cooperation Agreement in the fight against Child Trafficking in West Africa was signed by ten States of the West-Africa sub-region.

### **Article 5: Gender Parity**

At the national level in 2005, women constituted 20 per cent of the economic and social Council, six (6) per cent of the Supreme Court judges; 12 per cent of judges at the Constitutional Court, 16.66 per cent of members in the Transition Government and a vice-chair of the National Assembly. At the local level, women were 0.178 per cent of district governors and presidents of General Councils; and 8.37 per cent vice-presidents of districts and vice-presidents of General Councils.

Due to this great disparity in decision-making positions, the Transition Government in 2006 committed itself to pursuing the principle of gender equality. This commitment was concretized with the creation of the Central Directorate of Gender Equality. The mission of the Directorate is to ensure the implementation of the policy of gender equality and equity at all levels and to promote the Gender approach.

### **Article 6: Women's Human Rights**

With the exception of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Cote d'Ivoire has ratified most international conventions on gender equality and women's rights. These include CEDAW ratified in 1995; the ILO Conventions 138 (in 2002) and 159 (in 1999); the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (2002) and the ILO Convention 182 (2003). The labor code recognizes the principle of equal pay for equal work for both women and men. In civil law, women have the same legal recognition and rights as men.

### **Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights**

Women have the same rights with men to access land and documentary titles. These rights are reinforced through Law No. 64-375 of October 7, 1964 modified by Law No. 83-800 of August 2 1983 on Civil Marriage Code. Law No. 64-379 of October 7, 1964 on succession and Law No. 64-380 of October 7, 1964 on gifts inter vivo and wills regulate the rights of the surviving spouse. Article 8 of the Succession Act recognizes the rights of the surviving spouse (widow/widower) to inherit in full the property of the deceased. Also, Law No. 98-750 of December 1998 recognizes the rights of the surviving spouse to rural land.

### **Article 8: Education**

The provision of Basic Education Act was adopted in 1997 within the framework of the National Plan for the Development of Education and Training. This principle makes

schooling compulsory until the age of 16 for all children in Cote d'Ivoire, without discrimination.

In primary education, the number of pupils for the year 2001-2002 was 2,113,836 including 914,700 girls, or 43.27 per cent. In 2004, the number of pupils in the government controlled area was 1,624,349 pupils including 722,672 girls or 44.48 per cent. In the other areas, it was 433,578 pupils of which 206,079 or 47.52 per cent were girls. The dropout rates in 2001-2002 among girls in CE2 or 4<sup>th</sup> grade was 7.5 per cent and in CM1 or 5<sup>th</sup> grade it was 9.8 per cent compared to 4.6 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively for boys. The Transition Rate in 6<sup>th</sup> year is particularly low. In 2001-2002 it was 39.1 per cent for boys and 36.1 per cent for girls.

Based on the above, the government of Cote d'Ivoire adopted the Education Sector Support Training Project in 1999 to increase the gross schooling rate for girls to at least 90 per cent by 2010; established the girls' education and training unit within the Directorate of Extra Curricula and Cooperative Activities; provides free textbooks and manuals to the underprivileged and established the Miss Mathematics Contest to encourage girls to study scientific and technical disciplines.

These efforts resulted in an increase in the Gender Parity Index in primary education from 0.77 per cent to 0.81 per cent between 1997-2000.

### **Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

Since Cote d'Ivoire has signed but not ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women.

## **D) THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

### **Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

Ghana's constitutional provisions are in line with CEDAW's provisions and they provide the constitutional basis for gender mainstreaming and equality. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, the National Council for Women and Development, the gender desk officers in the 138 District Assemblies and gender focal persons in government ministries, departments and agencies are also part of the country's institutional mechanisms for gender equality.

### **Article 1 HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases**

The Ghana AIDS Commission is in charge of the government's HIV/AIDS program. Towards this end, the Commission has undertaken various projects and programs to control the spread of HIV/AIDS such the integration of HIV/AIDS into sexual and reproductive health services and the safe motherhood program. In addition, efforts at awareness creation, control and management, care and support of people living with

HIV/AIDS has been intensified. These combined efforts have resulted in the reduction of HIV/AIDS prevalent rate to 2.7 per cent.

Although the provision of treated bed nets is below the Abuja target of 60 per cent by 2005, coverage has improved significantly as it rose from 3.3 per cent in 2002 to 25 per cent in 2005. The government's aim is to reach 80 per cent coverage by 2010. A national guideline on inter-nutrients preventive treatment of malaria in pregnancy has been adopted; the government routinely distributes treated bed nets to pregnant women and under fives, provides mosquito screens on windows and doors, repellents, indoor residual spraying, limited larviciding and advise on environmental management.

To combat the spread of TB, an awareness creation project dubbed "Strengthening Community Capacity to Manage Tuberculosis" was launched in 2004.

## **Article 2: Peace and Security**

Women account for 11.5 per cent of Ghana's peacekeeping contingents. The Ghana government has initiated programs to protect the rights of refugee women and children especially from sexual abuse and economic exploitation.

## **Article 3: Child Soldiers**

The Recruitment of child soldiers is an uncommon practiced in Ghana. Ghana has ratified the convention against the recruitment of child soldiers. Promulgated a law against ritual servitude, a traditional practice where young girls are kept in shrines to atone for crimes committed by male members of their families. In collaboration the NGOs, the government organizes sensitization programs periodically on the negative impact of war and the use of small arms.

## **Article 4: Gender-Based Violence**

Legislation to prohibit negative cultural practices such as ritual servitude, harmful widowhood rites and FGM has been passed. A Human Trafficking Law has also been passed and the government is implementing the ECOWAS Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons while developing its own National Plan. A draft Domestic Violence Bill is awaiting Parliamentary signature. However, there is a domestic violence and victim support unit within the Police force and the government observes the 16 days of activism on Violence Against Women annually.

## **Article 5: Gender Parity**

The government of Ghana has demonstrated its commitment to the principle of gender equality by appointing women to head strategic and sensitive posts. For example, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Statistical Services, Immigration, the National Development Planning Commission, National Population Council, the Ghana Chamber of Mines and the National Employers Association, among others.

### **Article 6: Women's Human Rights**

As part of the Ghana government's effort at promoting human rights, it established the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice and the Legal Aid board. The Commission monitors human rights violations and has intensified its educational programs especially in the area of women's human rights. Government's efforts are being complemented by literacy programs undertaken by civil society organizations working on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment.

### **Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights**

A draft Property Rights of Spouses Bill prepared by the Attorney-General's Department in 2002 is being fine tuned to take into consideration women's land rights. A Land Administration program aimed at streamlining land administration to remove barriers to land acquisition and address gender issues in land ownership, access and control is now in place. The provision of affordable housing is one of the goals of the on-going housing policy review program.

### **Article 8: Education**

Measures taken to ensure the education of girls and improve women's literacy level especially in the rural areas are among others:

\* Establishment of a girl's education unit to facilitate and advocate for the education of the girl-child;

\* Development of an Education Strategic Plan (2003-2015) that include a program in favor of girls, such as the abolition of school levies.

Consequently, there has been some achievement in the reduction in the gender gap at enrolment in primary schools. The Gender Parity Index (GPI) improved slightly from 0.91 to 0.93 and the Net Enrollment Ratio (NER) GPI from 0.95-0.97 at the national level. At the district level, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) showed that 29 districts were on course and 5 were above parity while the NER GPI showed that 57 districts were on course and 7 were above parity. In terms of adult literacy, women accounted for 60.3 per cent of graduants from non-formal education in 2003.

### **Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

No submission was made in relation to this article.

## **E) THE REPUBLIC OF MALI**

### **Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

Articles 1-21 of the Malian Constitution clearly articulate the principle of equality and non-discrimination. The Ministry of Women, Children and Family is entrusted with the mission

of improving the status of women, ensure their protection and promotes their rights and that of the child and strengthen the family unit.

### **Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases**

As part of its Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative, Mali agreed to invest 1.3 billion CFA annually to purchase ARV reagents and other laboratory consumables. As a result, the government has since 2004 provided free ART treatments to people living with HIV/AIDS. Also, an Act establishing rules on the prevention, care and control of HIV/AIDS was passed by the National Assembly in 2006 and is awaiting Presidential approval. The month of December is commemorated as “National HIV/AIDS Month.”

A national Malaria Program has been in existence since 1993. The adoption of this program has resulted in the implementation of the Bamako Initiative, tax exemptions for treated bed nets, promulgation of sanitation and living environment policy, training of traditional birth attendants and the declaration of an annual malaria eradication day. The national TB program was established in 1995 by law No. 095/MS-PA-SG. TB treatment is free.

### **Article 2: Peace and Security**

At the international level, Mali has ratified the statute of the International Criminal Court. At the local level, the government of Mali has allowed women to participate in national and regional peace negotiations; nominated a female ambassador Special Envoy of the President of the Republic to the United Nations and the African Union, in charge of Human Rights issues; supported women’s organizations engaged in peace in the distribution of food and clothes to refugees and displaced people; and women receiving returnee families.

In relation to peacekeeping missions, three women soldiers and two women superintendents have been part of the Malian Contingents (1 soldier in Liberia, two in Congo in 2005 and 1 superintendent as observer in Congo in 2005).

### **Article 3: Child Soldiers**

At the International level, Mali has ratified the following Conventions on the Rights of the child:

- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child (Act N° 98-28 of July 20, 1998);
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts (Ordinance n° 01-407 of September 20 2001);
- The UN Convention against transnational organized crime to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Act n° 02-020 of June 03, 2002).

Mali signed the multilateral cooperation agreement to combat child trafficking in West Africa, was signed on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

#### **Article 4: Gender-Based Violence**

Although there is no law on violence against women, however, assault and battery are recognized in the Criminal Code as crimes against women. The government also listed the following among others as some of the abuses Malian women endure;

1. Sexual violence through rape, sexual abuse and sexual harassment;
2. Psychological violence through gender-based expressions and insults, lack of respect for women, attempts at downgrading, devaluing, humiliating, belittling of women;
3. The psycho-physiological violence that appear through women's abandonment by their husbands for many years for migration purposes;
4. Institutional violence through culturally accepted practices such as levirate, sorority, forced or early marriages, repudiation in conformity with the Muslim law, certain forms of widowhood practices, abduction of women, barter trade of women, change in matrimonial option, forced wearing of the Chador.

#### **Article 5: Gender Parity**

Missing from submitted report.

#### **Article 6: Women's Human Rights**

Missing from submitted report.

#### **Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights**

Missing from submitted report.

#### **Article 8: Education- Incomplete Submission**

Primary education is compulsory and free. To reduce the disparity between boys and girls, the government introduced various programs to accelerated girls' education. Some examples are:

- Reduction in charges related to schooling among poor families to improve school attendance of girls;
- Gender-sensitive curriculum development
- Provision of educational supplies and teaching materials to schools (50 per cent in primary schools and 25 per cent in secondary schools)
- Convert community-based schools into public/communal schools
- Construction of 2350 classrooms on average per year for the first cycle and about 1000 for the secondary cycle...

It should be noted that since 2000, all the new infrastructures are equipped with separate latrines (girls-boys).

### **Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

Mali ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on January 13, 2005 by ordinance and the instrument was registered on February 13, 2005.

## **F ) THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

### **Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

Chapter IV Sections 42 (1), (a), (b), (2) and (3) of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution provides for non-discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity, age or circumstances of birth against all Nigerian citizens. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA) is the national gender focal machinery and is in charge of implementing the national the gender policy and the National Centre for Women's Development (NCWD), a parastatal under the FMWA is responsible for promoting women's advancement through research, training and documentation.

### **Article 1: HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases**

The national campaign against HIV/AIDS is led by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) chaired by the President is charged with ensuring multi-sector and multi-level participation of relevant stakeholders. HIV/AIDS control is integrated into the country's Primary Health Care System. Nigeria's HIV/AIDS control program includes free medical care/subsidized drugs, public enlightenment programs, provision of HIV testing kits to all citizens irrespective of sex; establishment of Voluntary Counseling and Confidential Testing (VCCT) centers have been established alongside the introduction of PMTCT in most states of the federation. Provision of home/community based care and support services People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) including their families. To address the gender related stigma associated with the program and encourage the participation of men, the program has been renamed Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT).

### **Article 2: Peace and Security**

Nigeria has ratified the AU Constitutive Act and the ECOWAS Protocol on Peace, Security, Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution in West Africa. To further its obligations, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) was established with a female director as head of the Department of External Conflict Prevention and Resolution. The department's main focus is on post-conflict peace building in Africa (including Nigeria). Gender mainstreaming and the specific problems of women and

children during conflict and war situations as well as in relation to peace building are adequately addressed by the agency.

### **Article 3: Child Soldiers**

The official age for recruitment into the Nigerian Army is 18 years, thus making it illegal and impossible for children to be directly recruited into the Armed Forces. Section 34 of the Child Rights Act enacted in 2003 complements this provision. Members of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria are sensitized on the use of children in war situations as part of their professional training.

### **Article 4: Gender-Based Violence**

The Federal Ministry of Justice completed a draft Bill on the - Elimination of Violence in 2006. The Bill has been sent to the National Assembly and reflects Nigeria's International obligations. Some State House of Assemblies have enacted legislations to prohibiting violence against women.

The Federal Ministry of Health has since 2004 commenced the commemoration of 6th February as annual 'Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Day'. The FMWA also commemorates the annual 16 days of Global Activism on Zero Tolerance for Violence Against Women (25<sup>th</sup> November-10<sup>th</sup> December).

In relation to the issue of trafficking, the Federal Government enacted the 'Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act 2003'. Parallel laws are in place in states where the problem is endemic. The Federal Government has also established the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on Human Trafficking and Child Labor and the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to enforce the law and monitor the trafficking of persons.

### **Article 5: Gender Parity**

Section 42 of the 1999 Constitution, guarantees every Nigerian (women and men), the rights to freedom from discrimination and the freedom of association, which by extension includes political association and participation. Women constitute about 19 per cent of members of the Federal cabinet in comparison to 12 per cent four years ago. Presently, women represent 22 per cent of Federal Permanent Secretaries as against about 10 per cent in 2003.

On the elective front, there is a marginal increase in the number of women elected into both the Upper & Lower Houses of the National Assembly. In the National Assembly, there are four (4) women out of 109 senators and 21 women out of 360 members of the Federal House of Representatives. Of significance is the number of female Deputy Governors, which has increased from 1 to 4. Furthermore, 2 out of the 36 State Houses of Assembly speakers are women; there are 47 women Local Government Chair out of 774.

In 2005, the first female justice of the Supreme Court and the first female Police Commissioner were appointed.

### **Article 6: Women's Human Rights**

The Nigeria Human Rights Commission was established as the country's human rights ombudsman. The Nigerian Government has signed and ratified all international and sub-regional treaties and conventions in respect of women's empowerment and promoting gender equality. At the local level, various state governments have enacted laws protecting women's human rights. For example,

- a) The Enugu State of Nigeria 2001, No. 3 on: - The Prohibition of Infringement of a Widow's and Widower's Fundamental Rights law;
- b) The Edo State Criminal Code (Amendment) Law 2000 cap. 48 on the Prohibition of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls;
- c) The Zamfara State Sharia Penal Code law of 2000, Vol. 1, No. 4, Sections 207 to 239 equally seeks to protect women and young girls from all forms of cruelty, sexual, labor and economic exploitation as well as trafficking;
- d) Bauchi State Hawking by Children (Prohibition) Act 1985, cap. 58;
- e) Ebonyi State Law 010(2000) on the Abolition of Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children; Edo State Female Genital Mutilation (*FGM*) Prohibition Law 2000;
- f) Cross-River State Girl-Child Marriage and Female Circumcision (Prohibition) Law of (2000).

### **Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights**

Section 43 of the Constitution guarantees every Nigerian (man or woman) the right to acquire and own immovable property anywhere in Nigeria; whilst section 44 guarantees the rights of every Nigerian to his/her movable or immovable property. Similarly, the Land use Act, 1978 also confers general powers to own real property upon both men and women. Through these provisions, all Nigerians regardless of sex are in principle, entitled to landed or other movable property.

### **Article 8: Education**

The Child's Rights Act passed in 2003, reinforces government's commitment to provide free and compulsory education for every Nigerian child up to junior secondary school level. Furthermore, section 15(6) of the same law prescribes punishment for parents or guardians who prevent a child from attending and completing his/her education. Universal Basic Education and other Related Matters Act, 2004 (UBE) also reiterates the rights to compulsory, free, and universal basic education. The Federal Government of Nigeria has designated a special fund for implementing Millennium Development Goal 3 to facilitate gender equality in education and the acceleration of girls' education.

## **Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

The Protocol on African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa has been signed but is yet to be domesticated as part of Nigerian law.

### **G) THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**

#### **Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality**

Rwanda's legal and institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality include both state and civil society organizations. The state institutions include the 1993 Constitution, the Ministry of Gender and Family Affairs, the National Women's Council, the national Coordinating Committee and the Permanent Executive Secretariat for the Follow-Up of the Beijing Platform of Action, the gender monitoring office, national gender policy and gender focal points. The civil society institutions are the forum of Rwanda women parliamentarians and Pro-Femmes Twese, the umbrella organization of women's NGOs.

#### **Article 1 HIV/AIDS and Other Related Infectious Diseases**

Since 2003, Rwanda has made significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS pandemic through a multi-sector and multidisciplinary decentralized strategy. The 2005-2009 National Prevention Plan against HIV/AIDS was developed in 2005. VCT sites have increased significantly- from 150,000 in 2003, to 340,000 in 2004 and to 640,000 in 2005. The number of PMTCT sites has also increased significantly from 56 in 2003 to 160 in 2005. Pregnant women under prophylaxis increased from 14 per cent in 2003 to 28 per cent in 2005.

A five strategic plan for 2005-2010 was developed as part of the National Malaria Control Program.

#### **Article 2: Peace and Security**

Women represent 29 per cent of people within GACACA Courts<sup>1</sup>. Rwandese women are among the armed contingents of the Rwandan Patriotic Army and the National Police in peacekeeping missions in Khartoum and Darfur in Sudan. They are also included in the United Nations Civil Police to be deployed in various peace keeping missions all over the world.

#### **Article 3: Child Soldiers**

Rwanda ratified the convention of the Child in 1990, the Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in 2000, and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts in 2002, but is yet

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<sup>1</sup> Local court in charge of crimes committed during the 1994 genocide.

to sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court<sup>2</sup>. Rwanda has not amended its Labor Code to reflect Article 3(d) of the ILO Convention prohibiting children under 18 from performing harmful work.

With UNICEF's assistance, the Rwanda government started its demobilization program in 1997.

Law No. 27 protecting the rights of children was promulgated in 2001. Article 19 forbids military service for children less than 18 years of age. In relation to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, a national policy for orphans and other vulnerable children was adopted in 2003.

#### **Article 4: Gender-Based Violence**

In addition to its international commitments to protect women from gender-based violence, Rwanda enacted laws at the national level to reinforce these obligations. Law No. 27 of 2001 defines a child as anyone below the age of 18 years. The law protects children from violence especially rape and prescribes punishments for such violations. Rape of children below 14 years is life imprisonment, for those between 14-18 years a fine of imprisonment of up to 25 years. If the rape victim dies or is infected with an incurable disease, the rapist is sentenced to death. Laws No 08 of 30/8/1996 and 40/2000 of 26/01/2001 classify rape and sexual torture as category one crimes and as such, perpetrators are sentenced to either death or life imprisonment depending on the gravity of the offence. A draft law on prevention and protection of all forms of gender-based violence is being developed by Parliament.

#### **Article 5: Gender Parity**

The 2003 Constitution prohibits all forms of gender-based discrimination and recommends that least 30 per cent of all positions in public decision-making institutions are reserved for women. Further, Law No. 42 of 5 December 2000 establishing the local council election body includes a quota of at least 1/3 of women to be placed on the electoral list. As a result, Rwanda has the highest number of female politicians globally - 48.8 per cent.

#### **Article 6: Women's Human Rights**

In relation to women's rights, Rwanda has, in addition to CEDAW adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and has ratified other instruments related to rights of women and children, including:

- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Marriage Age and Registration of Marriages;
- Convention on Women's Political Rights;
- Convention for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and Exploitation of other People's Prostitution;

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<sup>2</sup> This treaty includes recruitment and use of children less than 15 years of age in hostilities as a war crime.

- Convention on Married Woman's Nationality;
- Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa;
- African Charter of Human and People's Rights and its Protocols related to Women's Rights ;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Convention on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor;
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
- Optional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children supplementing the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

At the level of national legislation, Law No. 04 of 12/03/99 established the National Human Rights Commission; Law no 22 of 12/11/99 supplementing Book I of the Civil Code and Part Five regarding matrimonial regimes, liberalities and successions, enables women to choose their preferred matrimonial regime and allows the girl-child to inherit property her parents as her brothers. N° 29 of 03/12/2004 on Rwanda's Nationality Code gives a woman married to a foreigner the right to pass on her nationality to her children.

#### **Article 7: Land, Property and Inheritance Rights**

In addition to Law N° 22/99 of 12/11/1999 , Organic Law No. 08/2005 of 14/07/2005 establishing Rwanda's land regime allows gender equality in terms of access to land. Women as well as men have the right to access, own and exploit land and all children, boys and girls, have equal rights to land inheritance. The government is planning to establish a Land commissions and its composition will be gender-mainstreamed to ensure that it is useful to both men and women at all levels of decision-making regarding land rights.

#### **Article 8: Education**

The major goal of the Government in its Vision 2020 for education is to achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE) by 2010 and subsequently Basic Education for all by 2015. Achievement of both goals depends on addressing the problem of high dropout and repeat rates which are higher among girls than boys.

Rwanda's literacy rate stands at 52.4 per cent. The government policy is to increase the literacy rate to 85 per cent by 2010. To achieve this goal, literacy training would be provided to 500,000 people every year until 2010.

**Article 9: The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**

Rwanda adopted and ratified the Protocol to African Charter of Human and People's Rights related to Women's Rights in Africa. The signature of this regional instrument took place on 11 July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique; its ratification by the Presidential Order N° 11/01 took place on 24 June 2004.

The Protocol and other regional and international instruments for the protection and promotion women's rights such as the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW Resolution 1325 and SDGEA have been translated in Kinyarwanda, the national language.