

CHAD

Republic of Chad

Ministry of Social Action and the Family

N'Djamena, 14 May 2004

REPLY TO QUESTIONNAIRES ON GENDER AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN CHAD

Gender and information and communication technologies are new issues in Chad. The discussion began in 1995, in Beijing, at the Fourth World Conference on Women and continued when the Chadian delegation returned home.

1.1 Issues relating to gender

1. Currently, the three main issues relating to gender in Chad are as follows:

Level of education and education in general: School enrolment for girls continues to be a source of trouble for Chad. It is a major problem because, notwithstanding the considerable efforts made by the Government and international and national non-governmental organizations, it continues to meet with considerable social and cultural resistance. In the northern parts of the country girls have great difficulty gaining access to educational establishments. In the elementary and secondary cycles and beyond, the enrolment rate for girls is 5 per cent, while that for boys is 45 per cent. Currently, the situation as regards girls' education is improving. The school enrolment rate for girls rose from 30.2 per cent (1993/1994) to 55.9 per cent (2000/2001). School enrolment has gone up by 27 per cent.

Socio-cultural constraints: Female genital mutilation: Female genital mutilation continues to be practised throughout the country, particularly in the south east and east, due to traditional beliefs. Girls undergo this procedure between the ages of 8 and 14. Currently, the Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are waging a campaign against this practice.

Political level: Decision-making in the major bodies. Representation of women in the major political bodies.

Discrimination at the intellectual level; biological; women have no right to speak. Example: in Parliament, 9 of the 125 members are women; in Government, 2 out of 32.

Economic level: In Chad poverty is widespread among women even though women constitute the basis of the country's economy. Currently, the NGOs are working to reduce poverty among women, for example by providing credit to women in the context of a project for the reduction of poverty among women.

1.2 The indicators are as follows:

As regards education, we have a project initiated by UNICEF together with national NGOs including CELIAF, the central unit of women's associations, and AFJT, the association of women lawyers, designed to promote school enrolment among girls. Women are also receiving training in a variety of income-generating activities.

1.3 ITC is used in a number of areas having to do with development: education, communications, health, economics and energy; they are also used in matters relating to gender. The gender project being carried out by the Department for the Advancement of Women is having great success using the Internet.

1.4 Civil society, the private sector and NGOs make more use of the Internet than does the public sector; they do so primarily in the context of research and exchange of information. The policy development indicator. ICT makes it possible to exchange information. Women are way behind. If there is a web site women can develop their research skills.

1.5 The system is not equal to men in the area of gender and ICT; this is true as regards education and it is also true as regards women's organizations, groups and associations because there are no infrastructures or computer materials for using ICT.

1.6 Chad is embarking on a policy of national strategies to promote the use of ICT but, due to lack of a budget, the studies have not been completed. The policy document has been prepared but the studies have not and it is very difficult to list them. By identifying several ICT needs.

National gender issues mechanism

1. Chad does not yet have a national gender issues mechanism. It does not have one right now. In 2002, a gender issues project was begun at the Ministry of Social Action and the Family with help from UNFPA. It is intended to restore balance and parity between the various gender areas.

In the private sector, by contrast, it is the major international non-governmental organizations and also the national ones that establish such mechanisms. (See question 2).