

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MANDATES ON INCORPORATING GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN THE ISSUES COVERED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Prepared by the Interagency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality
Taskforce on Financing for Development
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1. MOBILIZING DOMESTIC FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and macroeconomic policies

The twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

53. ... All economic policies and institutions as well as those responsible for resource allocation should adopt a gender perspective to ensure that development dividends are shared on equal grounds.

73. (a) Mainstream a gender perspective into key macroeconomic and social development policies and national development programmes;

82. (l) Analyze and respond, as necessary, to the major reasons why men and women may be affected differently by the processes of job creation and retrenchment associated with economic transition and structural transformation of the economy, including globalization;

85. (f) Assist governments, upon their request, in incorporating a gender perspective as a dimension of development into national development planning.

93. (e) Continue research on all current trends that may be creating new gender disparities in order to provide a basis for policy action.

101. (a) Take effective measures to address the challenges of globalization, including through the enhanced and effective participation of developing countries in the international economic policy decision-making process, in order to, *inter alia*, guarantee the equal participation of women, in particular those from developing countries, in the process of macroeconomic decision-making;

*Commission on the Status of Women, Agreed Conclusions on Women and the Economy
(March 1997)*

23. Development policies should focus on the economic empowerment of women. The interlinkage between national policies at the macrolevel and economic and social gender roles and relations at the microlevel should be clear in order to make the policies more effective. The impact on women of liberalization policies, which include privatization, financial and trade policies, should be assessed.

Platform for Action (September 1995)

58. (b) Analyze, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes – including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy – with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women; assess their impact on family well-being and conditions and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;

58. (c) Pursue and implement sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies that are designed and monitored with the full and equal participation of women...;

165. (p) Use gender impact analyzes in the development of macro- and micro-economic and social policies in order to monitor such impact and restructure policies in cases where harmful impact occurs;

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and budgetary processes, resource allocations and expenditure reviews

The twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

53. ...All economic policies and institutions as well as those responsible for resource allocation should adopt a gender perspective to ensure that development dividends are shared on equal grounds.

73. (b) Incorporate a gender perspective into the design, development, adoption and execution of all budgetary processes, as appropriate, in order to promote equitable, effective and appropriate resource allocation and establish adequate budgetary allocations to support gender equality and development programmes that enhance women's empowerment and develop the necessary analytical and methodological tools and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation;

Platform for Action (September 1995)

58. (d) Restructure and target the allocation of public expenditures to promote women's economic opportunities and equal access to productive resources and to address the basic social, educational and health needs of women, particularly those living in poverty;

346. ...Governments should make efforts to systematically review how women benefit from public sector expenditures; adjust budgets to ensure equality of access to public sector expenditures, both for enhancing productive capacity and for meeting social needs; ...

165. (i) Facilitate, at appropriate levels, more open and transparent budget processes;

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and economies in transition

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

82. (l) Analyze and respond, as necessary to the major reasons why men and women may be affected differently by the processes of job creation and retrenchment associated with economic transition and structural transformation of the economy, including globalization;

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and access to financial services

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

83. (b) Support the work of NGOs and community-based organizations in helping disadvantaged women, in particular rural women, in gaining access to financial institutions in establishing businesses and other sustainable means of livelihood;

101. (f) Encourage the establishment, in partnership with private financial institutions, where appropriate, of "lending windows" and other accessible financial services with simplified procedures that are specifically designed to meet the savings, credit and insurance needs of all women;

Commission on the Status of Women, Agreed Conclusions on Women and the Economy (March 1997)

5. Governments should ensure that women's rights, particularly those of rural women and women living in poverty, are being promoted and implemented through their access to economic resources, including land, property rights, right to inheritance, credit and traditional saving schemes, such as women's bank and cooperatives.

6. The international community should actively support national efforts for the promotion of microcredit schemes that ensure women's access, self-employment and integration into the economy.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Article 13:

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:

- (a) The right to family benefits;
- (b) The right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit;
- (c) The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life.

Article 14:

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Convention to women in rural areas.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

- (a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;
- (b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning;
- (c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;
- (d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, *inter alia*, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;
- (e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self-employment;
- (f) To participate in all community activities;

- (g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as land resettlement schemes;
- (h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and credit

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

94. (c) Encourage the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacity, including through the support of international financial institutions, so that credit and related services for self-employment and income-generating activities may be made available to an increasing number of people living in poverty, in particular women, and to further develop, where appropriate, other microfinance instruments;

Platform for Action (September 1995)

166. (a) Promote and support women's self-employment and the development of small enterprises, and strengthen women's access to credit and capital on appropriate terms equal to those of men through the scaling-up of institutions dedicated to promoting women's entrepreneurship, including, as appropriate, non-traditional and mutual credit schemes, as well as innovative linkages with financial institutions;

167. (b) Mobilize the banking sector to increase lending and refinancing through incentives and the development of intermediaries that serve the needs of women entrepreneurs and producers in both rural and urban areas, and include women in their leadership, planning and decision-making;

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and entrepreneurship development

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

94. (a) Take measures to develop and implement gender-sensitive programmes aimed at stimulating women's entrepreneurship and private initiative, and assist women-owned business in participating in and benefiting from, *inter alia*, international trade, technological innovation and investment;

Commission on the Status of Women, Agreed Conclusions on Women and the Economy (March 1997)

4. ... Governments should ensure, *inter alia*, that macroeconomic policies, including financial and public sector reforms, and employment generation, are gender-sensitive and friendly to small-scale and medium-sized enterprises. Local-level regulations and administrative arrangements should be conducive to women entrepreneurs. It is the responsibility of Governments to ensure that women are not discriminated against in times of structural change and economic recession.

9. ... It is important that Governments, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society, women's organizations and other relevant actors promote women's entrepreneurial and self-employed activities through technical assistance services and programmes; information on markets; training; the creation of networks, including those at the regional and international levels; and adequate financial support; and where appropriate, by developing incentives. ...

Platform for Action (September 1995)

166. (a) Promote and support women's self-employment and the development of small enterprises, and strengthen women's access to credit and capital on appropriate terms equal to those of men through the scaling-up of institutions dedicated to promoting women's entrepreneurship, including, as appropriate, non-traditional and mutual credit schemes, as well as innovative linkages with financial institutions;

Convention on the Elimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Article 15:

2. States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and social protection

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

74. (b) Create and ensure access to social protection systems, taking into account the specific needs of all women living in poverty, demographic changes and changes in society, to provide safeguards against the uncertainties and changes in conditions of work associated with globalization, and strive to ensure that new, flexible and emerging forms of work are adequately covered by social protection;

Platform for Action (September 1995)

58. (o) Create social security systems wherever they do not exist, or review them with a view to placing individual women and men on an equal footing, at every stage of their lives;

165. (f) Conduct reviews of national income and inheritance tax and social security systems to eliminate any existing bias against women;

179. (a) Adopt policies to ensure the appropriate protection of labour laws and social security benefits for part-time, temporary, seasonal and home-based workers; promote career development based on work conditions that harmonize work and family responsibilities;

179. (c) Ensure, through legislation, incentives and/or encouragement, opportunities for women and men to take job-protected parental leave and to have parental benefits; promote the equal sharing of responsibilities for the family by men and women, including through appropriate legislation, incentives and/or encouragement, and also promote the facilitation of breast-feeding for working mothers;

Convention on the Elimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Article 11:

1. (e) The right to social security, particularly in cases of retirement,, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age and other incapacity to work, as well as the right to paid leave;

2. (b) To introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances;

Article 13:

1. (a) The right to family benefits;

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and taxation

Platform for Action (September 1995)

58. (b) Analyze, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes – including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy – with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women; assess their impact on family well-being and conditions and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;

2. MOBILIZING INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND OTHER PRIVATE FLOWS

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and TNCs

Platform for Action (September 1995)

165. (l) Ensure that all corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with national laws and codes, social security regulations, applicable international agreements, instruments and conventions, including those related to the environment, and other relevant laws:

3. TRADE

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and trade

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

49. Organizations of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, other international and regional intergovernmental bodies, parliaments and civil society, including the private sector and NGOs, trade unions and other stakeholders, are called upon to support government efforts and, where appropriate, develop complementary programmes of their own to achieve full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action.

101. (h) Establish ... social development funds, where appropriate, to alleviate the negative effects on women associated with structural adjustment programmes and trade liberalization and the disproportionate burden borne by women living in poverty;

UNCTAD 10 Plan of Action (February 2000)

8. Policies and programmes need to integrate a gender perspective in order to contribute to the empowerment of women and to achieve equality between women and men in all sectors of the economy.

*Commission on the Status of Women, Agreed Conclusions on Women and the Economy
(March 1997)*

4. Economic policies and structural adjustment programmes, including liberalization policies, should include privatization, financial and trade policies, should be formulated and monitored in a gender-sensitive way, with inputs from the women most impacted by these policies, in order to generate positive results for women and men, drawing on research on the gender impact of macroeconomic and micro-economic policies...;

23. Development policies should focus on the economic empowerment of women. The interlinkage between national policies at the macrolevel and economic and social gender roles and relations at the microlevel should be clear in order to make the policies more effective. The impact on women of liberalization policies, which include privatization, financial and trade policies, should be assessed.

Platform for Action (September 1995)

165. (k) Seek to ensure that national policies related to international and regional trade agreements do not have an adverse impact on women's new and traditional economic activities;

165. (l) Ensure that all corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with national laws and codes, social security regulations, applicable international agreements, instruments and conventions, including those related to the environment, and other relevant laws:

173. (d) Create non-discriminatory support services, including investment funds for women's businesses, and target women, particularly low-income women, in trade promotion programmes;

4. INCREASING OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and ODA

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

101. (l) Call for continued international cooperation, including the reaffirmation to strive to fulfil the yet to be attained internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance as soon as possible, thereby increasing the flow of resources for gender equality, development and peace;

*Commission on the Status of Women, Agreed Conclusions on Women and the Economy
(March 1997)*

23. Development policies should focus on the economic empowerment of women. The interlinkage between national policies at the macrolevel and economic and social gender roles and relations at the microlevel should be clear in order to make the policies more effective. The impact on women of liberalization policies, which include privatization, financial and trade policies, should be assessed.

5. DEBT

Intergovernmental mandates on gender and debt

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

101. (i) Identify and implement development oriented and durable solutions which integrate a gender perspective to external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, including least developed countries, *inter alia*, through debt relief, including the option of ODA debt cancellation, in order to help them finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women.

101. (j) Support the Cologne initiative for the reduction of debt, particularly the speedy implementation of the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries debt initiative; ensure the provision of adequate funds for its implementation and implement the provision that funds saved should be used to support anti-poverty programmes that address gender dimensions;

Commission on the Status of Women, Agreed Conclusions on Women and the Economy (March 1997)

21. The international community, in particular the creditor countries and international financial institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, should further pursue effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of the developing countries on the basis of existing debt relief and reduction, grants and concessional financial flows, in particular for the LDCs, taking into account the negative effect of these issues on women and women's programmes.

6. ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC ISSUES

Intergovernmental mandates on the role of the United Nations in relation to gender equality

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (June 2000)

49. Organizations of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as the World Trade Organization, other international and regional intergovernmental bodies, parliaments and civil society, including the private sector and NGOs, trade unions and other stakeholders, are called upon to support government efforts and, where appropriate, develop complementary programmes of their own to achieve full and effective implementation of the Platform for Action.