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## **Regional review of PICT<sup>i</sup> progress on the Beijing Platform for Action – October 2009-January 2010**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **A. Background**

The United Nations (UN) with its member states is in the process of reviewing and appraising global progress on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPA) adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), in preparation for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2010 (Beijing +15).

UN regional commissions are collaborating with the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in this process and in the case of the Pacific this is being handled through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The review is focusing on achievements, gaps and challenges in the 5 year period (2004-2009) since States progress was last reviewed and will identify where actions and initiatives are most urgent to further implementation.

It is being conducted on the basis of UN Member states responses to a questionnaire which gathers information on:

**I. Major overall achievements and obstacles** encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

**II. Specific examples of achievements, challenges and lessons learned** including policy development, legislative change, advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-development and programmes and projects which they have undertaken on implementation in the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, except in relation to Institutional Development which is covered separately below.

**III. Institutional development** or those structures and measures countries have put in place to support promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. It covers the critical area of concern H in the BPA: Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, and chapters V on Institutional Arrangements and VI on Financial Arrangements, as well as actions identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Information on national machineries, capacity-building programmes for line ministries, resource allocation,

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statistics and indicators, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and partnerships should be described in this section.

**IV. Plans for future actions and initiatives** to address BPA commitments and ensure full implementation of each of the critical areas of concern. In particular, indications of any **new commitments** they will make to accelerate implementation of the BPA and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at national level over the next five years.

#### **A. Rationale**

UNESCAP has communicated with all Pacific island Member States of the UN on this first step in the review process which will be compiled into an Asia Pacific report to be tabled at the UNESCAP High Level Meeting planned for mid November 2009 in Bangkok. This will then feed into the global report to be prepared for UNCSW 54, 2010.

To date PIFS and UNIFEM in a coordinated development partner effort have been involved in providing support to countries to complete the questionnaires. At the close of the country reporting process, six countries had completed at least one of the two questionnaires and submitted to UNESCAP at the time of writing these Terms of Reference. Country responses are available from UNESCAP ([http://www.unescap.org/ESID/GAD/Issues/Beijing+15/index\\_questionnaire.asp](http://www.unescap.org/ESID/GAD/Issues/Beijing+15/index_questionnaire.asp)) and PIFS.

Due to this low country response, it is likely that the Asia Pacific Beijing +15 review report will not adequately reflect the Pacific situation and once again Pacific island countries will be the silent "P" in any kind of written and visual presentation of the Asia Pacific region's and therefore the world status of progress on the BPA implementation.

As part of joint efforts led by PIFS and the SPC together with UN partners working in the Pacific and Australia and New Zealand to ensure that UN member countries of the Pacific are fairly represented and engage at all stages and levels of the Beijing +15 review process, it is recommended that as a first step, a Pacific island region Beijing +15 review report be commissioned taking into account and building on the country reports already provided to UNESCAP.

#### **B. Scope of Work for the Pacific Beijing +15 review**

The Pacific Beijing +15 review will aim to provide a comprehensive report on the status of national and regional implementation of the Beijing +15 commitments in line with the UN reporting guidelines. It will take into account country responses already provided to the UN but cover a wider and more representative country grouping (s) and be guided by the Beijing +15 review

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instruments, the Revised Pacific Platform for Action (2004) and other relevant regional gender equality frameworks for action such as those related to violence against women, HIV, information, communication and technology developments, peace and conflict resolution and climate change. The review will also aim to increase understanding at the regional and national level of what is needed to move gender equality forward through recommendations for action in certain priority areas. The review will be used as a baseline document for discussion at the 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 4<sup>th</sup> Ministerial on Women to be convened by the SPC in 2010.

The review process will involve the following:

- Development of a country data gathering instrument based on review and analysis on the UN Beijing +15 review questionnaires (See Annexes 1 and 2); and country responses
- Liaising/consulting with country gender focal points both in government and civil society
- Liaising/consulting with other relevant government and non-government agencies, e.g. Ministries of National Planning, Foreign Affairs, Legal Affairs and Justice
- Liaising/consulting with development partners
- Desk review of relevant national and regional reports and other relevant literature, e.g. on CEDAW, CRC, policy papers, project implementation reports, etc.
- Analysis and presentation of country/regional statistical data and information
- Possible travel to two or three Pacific island countries
- Drafting of presentation of review process and outline, progress and early findings for use at a Pacific group meeting/workshop to be held pre-High Level Meeting in Bangkok in Mid - November 2009.
- Consultative processes to review and finalise draft versions of the report including the above.
- Preparation of draft summary power point presentation of the report highlighting major findings and recommendations.

### **C. Expected Output**

**Main:** The consultant will deliver a review report of not more than 80 pages which includes:

1. Executive summary
2. Introduction
3. Description of Methodology
4. Overview of the region
5. Summary of findings, analysis and recommendations organized according to Sections I-IV of the UN questionnaire.
6. Discussion of emerging issues and trends
7. Key findings and recommendations
8. Complete Bibliography
9. List of persons consulted

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**Additional:** Power point presentation highlighting summary findings and recommendations.

The principal written output outlined mentioned above will be provided in MS Word and will include an Executive Summary of no more than five pages, the main body of no more than 60 pages and any essential annexes. These documents will also include a list of abbreviations and acronyms used in the reports and, attached as annexes, lists of persons consulted during the process, descriptions of the methodology and field visit reports.

### **E. Duration**

Work is expected to begin in the first week of November 2009 and continue through to mid January 2010 when the final report should be finalized and ready for print. It is estimated that the review will take 10 working weeks or 50 work days and may include travel to a selected group of Pacific island countries. The majority of the review is intended to be done as a desk exercise/study.

### **G. Qualifications**

The consultant will have a master's degree in Social Development/Economics/Gender Studies or a closely related discipline, and a minimum of 10 years substantive experience in development related work with particular experience in gender and development and national development planning and gender mainstreaming. The consultant should also have excellent written and spoken English with evidence of written work. There should be clear evidence that the consultant has these competencies and prior experience of similar work in particular in the Pacific island region.

### **H. Management arrangements**

The contract will be issued and managed by the SPC under the Supervision of the Manager, Human Development Programme.

### **I. Consultancy Fee/Payment Schedule**

This will be negotiated on an output basis and paid in two installments; (i) on submission of a satisfactory draft report; and (ii) on submission on final report. Fees will be based on the quality of the expression of interest, work experience and ability to demonstrate capacity to deliver a quality work product within the set time frame. Travel and per diem costs will be in addition to fees. Travel to and from home base to selected PICTs will be arranged according to the most direct and economical route.

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Annex 1

## **Questionnaire to Governments**

### **on Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcome of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly (2000)**

#### **For preparation of regional review and appraisals in the context of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2010**

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations regional commissions will carry out a review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), in preparation for the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2010. The regional commissions will collaborate with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in this process.

The review and appraisal of progress will cover the five-year period between the responses submitted by Member States to the questionnaire in 2004 and the end of 2009. It will identify achievements, gaps and challenges and provide an indication of areas where actions and initiatives are most urgent to further implementation.

In preparing the review and appraisal of progress, the regional commissions will utilize the responses of Member States to this questionnaire. In addition, a variety of sources of information and statistics will be drawn upon, including reports submitted by States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; information generated in the context of the Commission on the Status of Women; regional action plans and national reports to regional bodies; as well as and the outcomes of expert group meetings and other activities at regional level. Other sources of information include Common Country Assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, (CCA/UNDAFs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, (PRSPs), national Human Development Reports and national Millennium Development Goal (MDG) reports.

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## II. THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire consists of four parts. Member States are requesting to provide information on efforts made and progress achieved since the most recent review and appraisal in 2005.

In **Part One**, reporting States are invited to highlight **major overall achievements and obstacles** encountered in the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Responses in Part One of the questionnaire should be no longer than three pages.

In **Part Two** of the questionnaire, reporting states are encouraged to provide specific examples of achievements, including policy development, legislative change, advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-development and programmes and projects which they have undertaken on implementation in the **critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action** (except for critical area H which is covered in Part Three), as well as areas requiring further initiative and action identified in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Obstacles and remaining gaps and challenges in relation to the critical areas of concern should also be identified and a summary of lessons learned provided. Response to Part Two of the questionnaire should be no longer than 10 pages.

**Part Three** focuses on **institutional development** or those structures and measures countries have put in place to support promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. It covers the critical area of concern H in the Platform for Action: Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, and chapters V on Institutional Arrangements and VI on Financial Arrangements, as well as actions identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Information on national machineries, capacity-building programmes for line ministries, resource allocation, statistics and indicators, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and partnerships should be described in this section. Responses to Part Three of the questionnaire should be four pages in length.

In **Part Four** respondents are invited to provide information on the **remaining key challenges and constraints** in the reporting States, as well as any **plans for future actions and initiatives** to address these and to ensure full implementation of the Platform for Action in each of the critical areas of concern. Reporting States are encouraged, in particular, to indicate any **new commitments** they will make to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at national level over the next five years. Responses to Part Four of the questionnaire should be no longer than three pages.

The annex provides some examples of issues which could be covered under each part of the questionnaire. These examples are provided as guidance only. Reporting States are not required to cover all these issues but should focus on issues which are most relevant in their national contexts. Additional issues not included in the annex can also be raised in the responses.

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### **III. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE**

The information being sought through the questionnaire is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. Emphasis is placed on implementation, and reporting States are urged, as far as possible, to provide concrete information on impacts of initiatives and activities described. Activities and outputs and actions should be differentiated from achievements and impacts on the situation of women and on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. Reporting States are encouraged to provide quantitative data, disaggregated by sex and age, or to indicate where such data has already been submitted in other contexts. Countries wishing to provide information on indicators used at the national level to monitor activities for gender equality and empowerment of women may do so. Reporting States are also urged to provide information on the specific time periods for initiatives and actions taken.

For guidance, a list of reports submitted by Member States to the United Nations Secretariat prior to the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), and the ten-year review and appraisal in the Commission on the Status of Women (2005), as well as the most recent reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, can be found on the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>).

### **IV. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES**

Responses to this questionnaire should be sent in both hard copy and electronic format in one of the six official United Nations languages, no later than 1 March 2009 to the relevant regional commissions:

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Gender Equality and Empowerment Section  
Social Development Division  
United Nations Building, 6<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Rajdamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
Contact: Beverly Jones  
Fax: (66-2) 288-1030/1000  
E.mail: [gad@un.org](mailto:gad@un.org)

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**ANNEX: GUIDANCE ON ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN RESPONSES**

The examples below are provided as guidance only. Reporting States are not required to cover these issues but should focus on issues which are most relevant in their national contexts. Additional issues not included in the annex can also be raised in the responses.

**Part One: Overview of achievements and challenges in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment (3 pages)**

Please note that the response to Part One of the questionnaire should contain highlights of achievements and challenges. The issues raised in this part can be discussed in more detail in responses to other parts of the questionnaire. For example, issues related to globalization would be discussed in more details under Part Two of the questionnaire and issues on gender-responsive budgeting would be discussed under Part Three.

Guiding questions: The response could, for example, address the following issues and questions:

- a) Has a national policy on **gender equality and the empowerment of women** been adopted and at what level? Was a strategy or plan of action developed to support the implementation of the policy? What mechanisms were established for monitoring and how are different actors held accountable for its implementation? Is there a national coordination mechanism at the highest level to ensure that the policy is implemented in all sector areas?
- b) What impact does the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**, and the concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, have on the promotion of gender equality? How is implementation of the Convention progressing?
- c) What are the **main legislative and policy-making achievements** in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment over the past decade? Please provide details.
- d) To what extent have gender perspectives and the concerns of women been taken into account in preparation of **budgets** at national, regional and local levels? Has this resulted in increased resources for gender equality? Describe efforts to increase and track budgetary allocations related to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. Have gender-responsive budgeting procedures been introduced and to what effect?
- e) To what extent are the **Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs)** utilized as the national framework for development? What attention is given to Goal 3 on gender equality? Is national-level data available to effectively monitor the achievement of the targets under MDG3? Are gender perspectives and the concerns of women considered in all other MDG goals?

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f) Provide information on major **government policy discussions and/or parliamentary debates** where gender perspectives and the concerns of women have been taken systematically into account and resulted in policy and/or programmatic changes. What **recent major reforms** have taken place in the country where these perspectives were taken into account? What **major problems** are being debated in the country where the perspective of women and gender equality are considered as an integral part of the overall debate?

g) In countries emerging from **armed conflict**, to what extent were women involved, and gender perspectives and women's concerns included, in peace negotiations and in planning of reconstruction efforts?

h) How has **globalization** (for example, the use of ICT, market liberalization, changes in trading patterns, etc) affected the empowerment of women and girls and the promotion of gender equality? What efforts are being made to reduce potential risks and to build on opportunities for women?

i) In which **sector areas** have specific policies, strategies and/or action plans for promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment been developed and implemented? To what extent are gender perspectives and the concerns of women routinely taken into account in legislation, policy making and programme development in other sectors, so that inequalities and gaps are identified and addressed?

j) What types of significant **partnerships** have been established with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups, as well as the private sector and other stakeholders, in support of different aspects of national efforts on gender equality and empowerment of women – through for example, advocacy, participation in planning, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes and service delivery?

k) What efforts have been made to actively engage **men and boys** in the promotion of gender equality, including for example in eliminating violence against women and combating HIV/AIDS? What successes have been achieved and what constraints have been identified?

l) What is the impact of **climate change** and **food and energy crises** on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women? What steps are being taken to reduce the potential risks for and impact on women and to engage women effectively in prevention and mitigation processes? Have social protection measures been put in place to reduce the impact on women and have measures been adopted to support women farmers?

m) What is the impact of the financial crisis on the promotion of gender equality? What measures have been taken to reduce the negative impact on women's access to resources,

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income and social protection? To what extent have measures to revive growth mobilized women's economic potential?

**Part Two: Progress in implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and the further initiatives and actions identified in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (10 pages)**

Please organize the response to this part of the questionnaire according to the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (except for critical area H which is covered in Part Three of the questionnaire).

Guiding questions: The response within each critical area of concern could address, but does not need to be limited to, the issues outlined below:

A. Examples of successful policies, legislative change and programmes and projects

a) In relation to the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action and other key issues, what **successful actions** (such as legal measures, policy reforms, media campaigns, and pilot programmes or projects) have been taken by the Government or other actors (NGOs, civil society, the private sector) to achieve these objectives. Please provide concrete examples.

*b) To what extent have **specific commitments** on the critical areas of concern – for example in terms of resource allocation, legislative change and policy and programme development - made by the Government at the Fourth World Conference on Women or in other contexts, been met?*

B. Examples of obstacles encountered and remaining gaps and challenges

*c) Describe the **obstacles, gaps and challenges** encountered in implementation of the critical areas of concern and other key issues identified.*

C. Lessons learned

d) Provide information on the **main lessons learned** in implementation in relation to each of the critical areas of concern and other key issues identified.

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e) Provide concrete examples of **successful interventions** and explain why these were judged to be successful? Describe any effort to replicate these efforts.

### **Part Three: Institutional development (4 Pages)**

**Guiding questions:** The response could address, but does not need to be limited to, the issues outlined below:

- a) What **national mechanisms** exist for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women – for example, ministry, national commission, parliamentary committee or commission? What mandates and resources does each body have and have these increased in the review period? How do these bodies work together? Describe the location of the national mechanisms and the access to decision-making processes. What networks have been established and how effective are these networks? What resources do the national mechanisms have in terms of staff and financial support? What percentage of financial resources comes from international or bilateral donors or other external sources?
- b) Have **focal points** for gender equality and empowerment of women been established within line ministries, and in which ministries? What support is provided from within the ministries? What support (training, advice etc.) is provided by the national machinery? How effective are these focal points?
- c) What **monitoring** mechanisms have been established to measure progress in implementation – in relation to national policies, strategies and action plans as well as international commitments? How is accountability for promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women established across all ministries? How is coordination achieved? What role does the highest level of Government play?
- d) What levels of **capacity** for promoting gender mainstreaming have been achieved? Through which mechanisms? What are the remaining challenges in the area of capacity building?
- e) Has a core set of **indicators** been established and where is responsibility for monitoring located? What gaps and challenges remain in relation to data and statistics? In which areas is lack of sex-disaggregation still a problem? In which areas do new types of data need to be collected? To what extent are the national statistical office and the statistical units in line ministries aware, committed and capable of providing the required data? In which sectors, and to what extent, is sex-disaggregated data being used effectively to inform policy-making and planning?
- f) Provide information on the **roles of different stakeholders**. For example, what role does Parliament play in the promotion and monitoring of gender equality and women's empowerment? How could this role be strengthened? Describe the role of NGOs in planning

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and implementing the follow-up activities. Do NGOs participate formally in the mechanisms established to follow up the Fourth World Conference on Women and support reporting on and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)?

**Part Four: Remaining challenges and actions to address them (3 pages)**

*Provide information on areas requiring future action.*

- a) *List any **further actions and initiatives** which the Government intends to take to fully implement the Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly beyond 2010.*
- b) *Describe the **priority areas** that have been identified for improving implementation in the next five years.*
- c) *Give **examples of measures** (with targets and timeframes) which will be taken in each of these areas.*
- d) *Outline explicit **new commitments** that will be made to accelerate implementation?*

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<sup>i</sup> PICT: Pacific Island Countries and Territories include; Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Pitcairn, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna.

**Annex 2**

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## Strengthening national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women

### **QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND DATA TO SUPPORT REGIONAL STUDIES ON NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

Information provided by Member States to the “Questionnaire on Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcome of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly (2000) for preparation of regional review and appraisals in the context of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2010” sent by ESCAP in December 2008 and subsequent reminders sent in March and April 2009, does not need to be repeated. Likewise, information provided in the most recent report under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women also does not need to be repeated, if this information is still correct and up-to-date. Therefore, responses to the present questionnaire should supplement information previously submitted.

#### **Working definition of ‘national mechanisms’**

For purposes of this study, the term ‘national mechanisms for gender equality’ is understood to include those bodies and institutions within different branches of the State (legislative, executive and judicial branches) as well as independent, accountability and advisory bodies that, *together*, are recognized as ‘national mechanisms for gender equality’ by all stakeholders. They may include, but not be limited to:

- the national machinery for the advancement of women within Government (e.g. a Ministry, Department, or Office. See paragraph 201 of the Beijing Platform for Action)
- inter-ministerial bodies (e.g. task forces/working groups or similar arrangements)
- advisory/consultative bodies, with multi-stakeholder participation
- gender equality ombud
- gender equality observatory

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**Questions 1 – 3 refer to the components of the national mechanisms for gender equality**

Question 1: Did you submit a response to the “Beijing + 15 Questionnaire”:

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ No

Question 2: When did you last submit a report under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women?

\_\_\_ Year and UN document symbol

\_\_\_ Not applicable

Question 3: Please list all bodies that form part of the national mechanisms for gender equality, within the legislative, executive and judicial branches, as well as independent/advisory bodies.

Question 4: Please provide information about the mandate, roles/functions, structure, location and resources of each of the bodies listed.

**Questions 5 – 9 refer to coordination and collaboration among the bodies that constitute the national mechanisms for gender equality, and with other stakeholders**

Question 5: In the light of your response to question 3, please describe the established/formal means of coordination among the bodies that are part of the national mechanisms for gender equality. In particular, please identify the lead entity responsible for such coordination. What does the coordination role entail? Provide examples.

Question 6: Please explain the relationship between the national machinery for the advancement of women within Government, and sectoral ministries and other government bodies/ agencies.

Question 7: Please explain the relationship between the national machinery for the advancement of women within Government and other parts of the national mechanisms for gender equality. Please

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explain in particular the formal as well as informal means of collaboration and information exchange between these bodies. Provide examples.

Question 8: Please describe the channels of collaboration and information exchange between the national machinery for the advancement of women within Government with other stakeholders in the country, such as civil society organizations, academia, research institutions, and the media. Provide examples.

Question 9: In your opinion, are the processes of coordination and collaboration effective?

How could such cooperation/collaboration be improved?

**Questions 10 – 15 refer to the main areas of focus in the work of national mechanisms for gender equality, and effectiveness. The national mechanisms are invited to provide a critical self-assessment of their work, within existing resource constraints.**

Question 10: Please highlight the main areas of work of the national mechanisms for gender equality since 1995 [adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action], (such as, for example, women's political participation/parity; stereotypes; women's economic empowerment; violence against women; women, peace and security).

Question 11:

Please describe the strategies/processes (such as gender mainstreaming, legal reform, advocacy, stakeholder mobilization, capacity building, media relations, international/regional networking) used by the national mechanisms to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

Question 12: Please describe instruments (such as national action plans) used by the national mechanisms to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

Question 13: In regard to their main areas of work, strategies/processes, and instruments used, where have the national mechanisms been most effective?

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Please explain reasons for success/outcome, and strategies used to overcome obstacles/constraints.

Please provide three (3) success stories.

Question 14: In regard to their main areas of work, strategies/ processes, and instruments used, where have the national mechanisms been least effective? Please provide three (3) examples and explain the reasons.

Question 15:

In regard to the response provided in question 14, how could the role of the national mechanisms be improved to make it more effective?

**Question 16 refers to the overall national priorities and the role of the national mechanisms for gender equality to influence those.**

Question 16: Please discuss the manner in which the national mechanisms for gender equality are able to influence the main political priorities and related policy processes of the country (examples might include: economic/fiscal policy and poverty eradication efforts, social policy, security policy). The response should cover the national mechanisms' access to these critical policy processes, opportunities to provide comments on main policy documents/positions and monitor follow-up and implementation. Please provide concrete examples (both successes and lessons learned)

**Questions 17 – 20 refer to the potential and opportunities of the national mechanisms for gender equality to achieve gender mainstreaming goals.**

Question 17: Please provide examples of issues and processes where you see the greatest potential for the national mechanisms for gender equality in your country to make the greatest impact for the promotion of gender equality at this point in time?

Question 18: Where do you see opportunities for enhanced use of the gender mainstreaming strategy across all policy areas, and especially in regard to new and emerging issues such as economic, financial, energy, food crises, international migration, or environmental concerns?

How could those opportunities be fully realized?

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What is the role of the national mechanisms in this regard?

Question 19: In regard to the response provided in question 17, what would you anticipate to be the biggest obstacles for gender mainstreaming?

Question 20: How does stated political will for the promotion of gender equality and the use of the gender mainstreaming strategy translate into concrete support for the national mechanisms for gender equality?

\* \* \*