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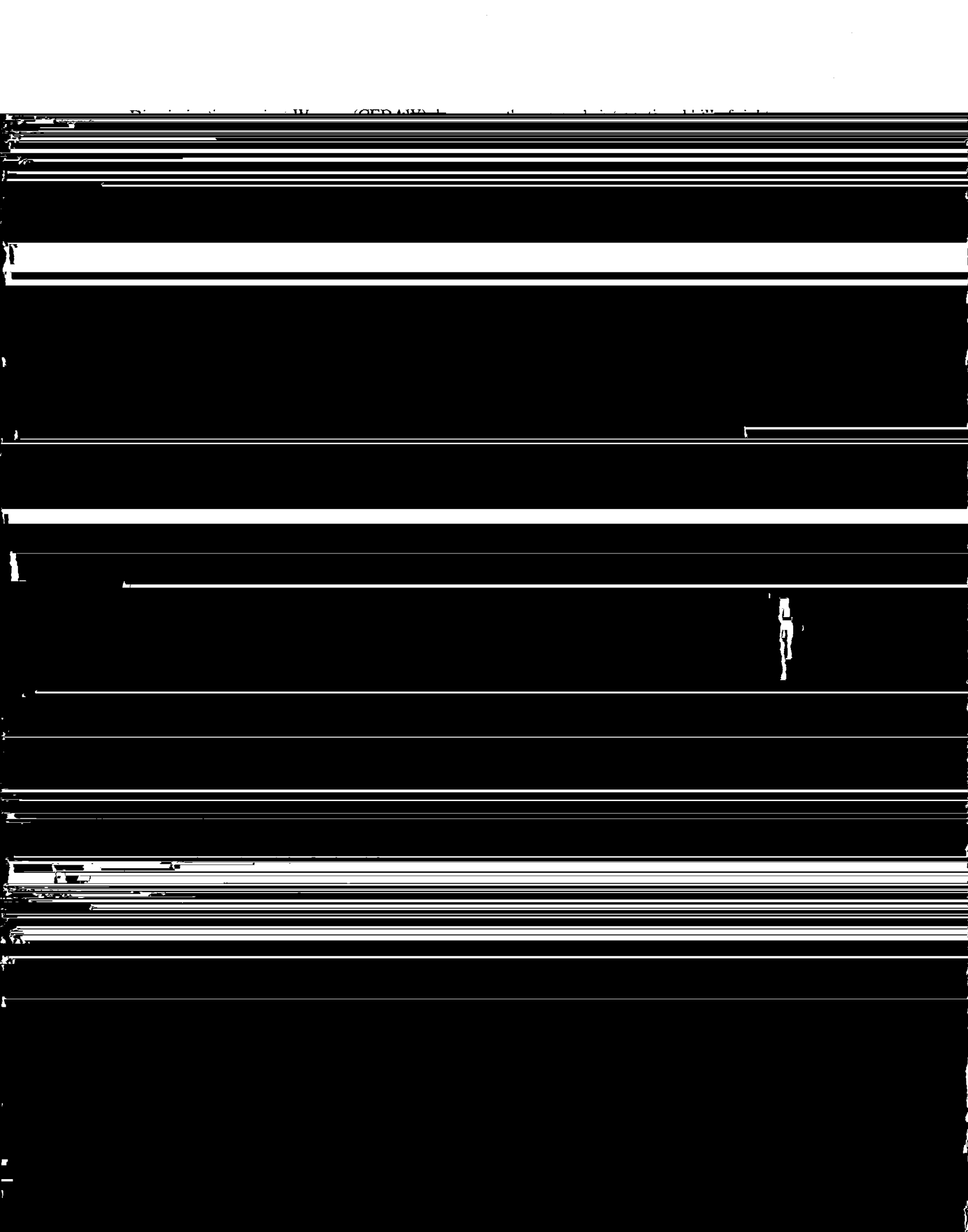
28 February – 11 March 2005

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the special session of the General Assembly entitled**

1. The African ministers in charge of gender and women affairs met at the Seventh African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing+10), in Addis Ababa, October 2004 to review the

implementation of the Dakar Platform for Action, the 2000 Summit and



the last decade in Africa are being reversed due to HIV/AIDS, high levels of maternal and

HIV/AIDS

22. There is growing public awareness about STDs and HIV/AIDS in Africa, through advocacy by governments, parliaments, public sector, development partners and civil society organizations. The threat posed by HIV/AIDS and related diseases such as malaria and TB, is now widely acknowledged at the policy level throughout Africa. Every country has established a National AIDS Commission. Some countries have succeeded in reducing infection rates while a few others have succeeded in keeping infection rates relatively low. Several African countries have approved codes and declarations on non-discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA). Increasing attention is being paid to the HIV/AIDS pandemic's link with poverty and sustainable development.

23. African women are the most affected by HIV/AIDS. Almost 70 per cent of people infected with HIV/AIDS live in Africa. Women form 58 per cent of those infected in Africa and

opportunities for decent jobs and working conditions for women and men must be developed and implemented.

Poverty

26 ~~Measures to mainstream gender concerns into poverty reduction strategies should include~~

Africa, women's organizations should be encouraged and supported. The Pan-African Women's Organization should also be reorganized and revitalized.

Media

30. Given the importance of communication and the speed with which information and communication technology (ICT) evolves, it is important that the region adopts and implements gender-aware media policies. There is also a need to: improve women's access to media and new ICTs; support women's press and communication initiatives; and, encourage the use of media and new ICTs to promote women's activities, project positive images and fight against stereotypes and discrimination. In this regard, there is a need to stress the importance of the

Environment

33. African governments should adopt gender-responsive policies, programmes, strategies and measures on environment. Women should play a prominent role in the design and

in behaviours, attitudes and norms, through gender sensitization, capacity-building and monitoring at all levels. Innovative rights based and culture sensitive focused programmes must

Capacity-building

41. Governments should provide adequate human and financial resources to national structures dealing with gender issues. To ensure that more gender specific data become available, national statistical offices should be supported to strengthen gender data collection and dissemination. In addition, data users need to be trained in the analysis and utilization of these data for planning, monitoring and evaluation. National capacity must also be built in the civil

Other Decisions by the Conference

45. The Seventh African Regional Conference on Women on Beijing + 10 also made the following decisions:

- a. The African women should organize a Dialogue with women from the north, in New York during the Global review of Beijing + 10, to look for a sustainable solution to the ~~perennial problem of conflict in Africa~~