

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

Overview of trends in achieving gender equality and women's advancement

In the Dominican Republic, the last decade and the current one characterized by new and increased interest on the part of civil society and the State in promoting gender equality and guaranteeing citizenship for women.

the event, the Fourth World Development and Peace, held in debate on the need for the State, ment to achieve gender equity and instruments to guarantee the conference.

because of the importance and Conference on Women, "Action for Equality Beijing in September 1995, highlighted through public policies, to adopt a co encouraged the creation of initiatives effectiveness of the promises made at

geared to achieving gender equality Department for the Advancement of Women as focal point for

In the Dominican Republic, the pr is mainly the responsibility of the public policies on the subject. The Department a national preparations for the Fourth Conference.

of Dominican Women.

through the Platform for Action for the Adv 1995-2000 in coordination with the Department

1995; this constitutes the country's fundamental plan of action of gender and development.

Acc con

Platform for Action for the Advancement of Dominican Women is the of a broad process of consultation with both public sectors and civil involving an in-depth diagnosis of the situation of Dominican women and consensus regarding the identification of the principal problems nican women and the necessary corrective measures. This document the commitment assumed by the Dominican Republic at the Fourth World

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official gender policy embodied in this document is promotion of the ation of women in development and recognition of their rights to citizenship within the context of sustained, equitable and democratic . The document proclaims the global strategies of concertation, community participation, strengthening of institutions and on.

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Emphasis is placed on the empowerment of women through their participation public life, strengthening of mechanisms for the advancement of women, and nization and adaptation of the legal system. Efforts are also entered on the elimination of poverty through the integration of women into

macroeconomic and social policies, equality of access to employment, strengthening of productive resources, assistance focused on groups of women in extreme poverty and participation of women in the preservation of natural resources and the environment.

culture and communication media, improving the treatment of women in the media, health issues and promotion of total health and the prevention of all forms of violence against women. National policy in gender issues reflects the following platform: In many of the areas mentioned above, there have been significant achievements or breakthroughs in the

The document also deals with education with emphasis on raising education standards for women in textbooks, promotion of cultural image that does not discriminate and violence are dealt with through prevention, punishment and elimination. In general, the main areas dealt with in

Dominican Republic
Empowerment of Women

... women are playing a larger role in public life... they are in party politics... The Dominican Republic now has a candidate for president, which would have been unthinkable a few years ago... The reorganized Supreme Court of Justice has 15 members, there had only been one woman member of the Supreme Court... affirmative action measure allocating to women 25 per cent of the political

... women are playing a larger role in public life... they are in party politics... The Dominican Republic now has a candidate for president, which would have been unthinkable a few years ago... The reorganized Supreme Court of Justice has 15 members, there had only been one woman member of the Supreme Court... affirmative action measure allocating to women 25 per cent of the political

... engaged... resulted in the... women has conducted a... of technology... tions to play their role... women...

During 1998 and 1999, the Department of the Advancement of Women in a broad process of consultation with the... for the creation of a Ministry for Women... submission of a draft bill concerning the Ministry... Congress by legislators from all the political parties... in addition, the Department for the Advancement... parallel process of institution strengthening in the... programmes and administration in order to assist in... and prepare for their transformation into a Ministry... Modernization and adaptation of the legal system... In recent years, an important process of reform of the legal system has taken place in the Dominican Republic... the latest legislative changes to ensure that women are the following:

1. Law 24-97 on violence, discrimination and desertion of the family classifies and prescribes penalties for violence against women and domestic and intra-family abuse, sexual assaults, procuring and trafficking in women.

2. Law 55-97 amending the Agrarian Reform Act establishes the principle of equality in all benefits, obligations and legal proceedings concerning agrarian

issues.

de for the Protection of Children and Adolescents; prescribes penalties for violence and sexual assaults against

Law 14-97 prescribes penalties for violence against family member

ing the Labour Code, proclaims the equal rights of men and women in labor

Law 55-97 proclaims the equal rights of men and women in labor

with equal access to employment.

The above-mentioned

women in situations of extreme poverty in the subject

agencies have

the Agrarian Reform Act and other activities undertaken in cooperation with other government sectors.

The Dominican Republic also has the "Worthy Community" Plan geared to combating extreme poverty and giving special attention to women (female heads of household, single mothers, etc.)

In recent years, attention has been focused on health and violence. In pursuance of Law 24-97, pilot plans for specific sectors have been implemented such as the plan for information on the subject of non-violence.

Among the aspects mentioned, the greatest success has been achieved in:

Participation of women in public life, strengthening of mechanisms for

1995 to March 1996. The increasing attention given an official policy

such as the role of media and other social sectors. It should be emphasized

that, in government sectors, the efforts made by specific

department for the Advancement of Women have

are traditionally lagging farthest behind in this regard

republic, the women's movement has been instrumental in

bringing gender issues to the forefront of public opinion

While it cannot be claimed that equality has been

of gender equality and women's advancement in other

ion. Information is given below on some of

prescribes penalties for discriminating against
the amended articles.

the Dominican Government established the
National Commission for the Prevention and Repression of Intra-family Violence

In 1998, by Decree No. 423
National Commission for the Prevention and Repression of Intra-family Violence

of the prevention
of persons
of the
the Reform and
es of the
District, the
ancement of

with the goal of formulating plans and engaging in activities
of intra-family violence and for the assistance and rehabilitation
affected by it. The Commission is composed of the Attorney
Republic, the Coordinator of the Office of the Commissioner
Modernization of Public Health and Social Welfare, represented
National Police, the Attorney-General's Office in the National
Department of Community Development, the Department for the

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of San Francisco de Macoris, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Santiago, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Sánchez Ramírez, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Puerto Plata, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of La Vega, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Española, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of María Trinidad Sánchez, established in 1997.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of San José, established in 1998.

Monce Plata, established in 1998. Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of San José, established in 1998.

Romana, established in 1998. Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Romana, established in 1998.

through these Offices, The National Plan for Gender Equity is implemented through the various offices and initiatives of the Department for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing agreements.

As was done for the Beijing Conference, national commissions were established to follow up the following summit meetings: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; World Summit for Social Development; World Summit for Children and World Food Summit.

(b) The National Office for the Follow-Up of Global Conferences was established on 25 March 1991, by Decree No. 122-91, to coordinate the various follow-up efforts to global conferences.

Through the Coordinator of Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Coordinator of NGOs for Women's Issues, the Cibao Women's Coordinator, various topical and sectoral networks and in each organization, have drawn up national, regional and local plans based on the agreements in the Beijing Platform for Action, which have been implemented since 1995.

The principal achievements of these organizations include: their contribution to the overhaul of Dominican legislation; follow-up and promotion of legislation adopted for the benefit of women; their contribution to the preparation of the draft bill on the upgrading of the Department for the Advancement of Women; their support for the highlighting of violence as a problem of human rights; the development of educational programmes to publicize women and gender issues; their contribution to the development of the training and empowerment of national leaders in the political arena and their influence on public policies ensuring a gender perspective in national and topical meetings organized by DGPM.