



**RESPONSE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
QUESTIONNAIRE
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING
PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

Prepared by

**Ministry of Economic Development Division
Cabinet Office
Office of the President
Zambia**

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PART I *Overview of trends in Achieving Gender equality and Women's Advancement in Zambia*

1.1 The Beijing Platform of Action and Declaration could not be implemented without the participation of the women and men of Zambia at all levels. Government Ministries, Churches and civil society participated in the formulation of the Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women in Zambia (SPAW): 1997 - 2001, the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

1.2 The Major Achievements in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action include:

is mainstreamed in their various policies, programmes, plans and projects. At the same time, government has put in place measures to making the National Budget gender responsive and to ensure that gender and development activities are budgeted for.

1.4 Zambia's priority areas of concern are:

- The persistent and growing disparity between men and women in terms of unequal access to resources and participatory structures and policies;
- Inequality in access to and opportunities in development and training;
- Women's unequal access to health and related services;
- Inequality between women and men in the sharing of decision-making; and
- The rights of the Girl Child.

1.5 The National Plan of Action only identified five areas of concern because previous strategy documents could not be so specific in large part because they covered too many areas with no clear focus to what should be given priority. One of the guidelines in selecting the areas of concern was that they must be achievable in effect and lead to consequential changes in other areas. It was also considered important that the National Action Plan be realistic and manageable.

1.6 Gender mainstreaming has been successful in the area of

- The introduction of the 25 percent Bursaries Scheme for female students;
- Establishment of the Women's Legal Clinic at the University of Zambia, which also provides legal advice and counselling to women who are unable to pay legal fees;
- Re-admission of girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy;
- Formulation of the Zambian Women Parliamentary Caucus.

- Affirmative action in the area of science and technology to encourage the participation of female students;

The content of the Interim Survey

services for
Young Women
provision of

- Establishment of the Victim Support Unit;
- Establishment of Drop-in Centers and refuges for victims and perpetrators of gender violence;
- Christian Association of Zambia;
- Re-orientation of Traditional Birth Attendants on the use of health kits;

PART II Financial and Institutional measures

and Economic
Division at
at developing
objective of
development
responsive.

2.1 The Budget Office at the Ministry of Finance and Development (MOFED) and the Gender Inequality Unit at the Cabinet Office have been engaged in active discussions on modalities for engendering the National Development Plan. This initiative is to contribute towards ensuring that national policies, programmes, projects and activities are gender-responsive.

on gender, the
Division to
the

2.2 In order to institutionalise the implementation of the National Development Plan, the Government has mandated the Gender Inequality Unit at the Cabinet Office to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of gender and development activities. On the other hand, the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) implementing gender activities are co-ordinated by the Governmental Co-ordinating Committee (NGOCC).

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2.3 Although modalities to co-ordinate and monitor the money spent on gender and development activities are in place, the Gender Inequality Unit at the Cabinet Office has not been fully operational. The Gender Inequality Unit, is currently looking at the possibilities of collaboration between the Budget Office and Technical Department at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and co-operating partners to ensure that information on gender and development activities is shared.

strengthen the role of the National
ating gender and development
capacity building is required.

Development Division, Women's Machinery and other activities, additional res

- 2.4 The formulation of the National Plan of Action for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action takes cognisance of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and Vienna Declaration on Women's Human Rights.

PART III Implementation of the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action.

3.1 In relation to each of the twelve critical areas of concern describe best practices and innovative action taken by the Government and other Actors;

3.1.1 Women and poverty

The Government has put in place a number of programmes and strategies aimed at empowering the disadvantaged groups, especially women. These include:

• The Social Sector Rehabilitation Programme targeting the disadvantaged group, with women as a specific group;

• Also targeted for the vulnerable groups especially pay for education and health services;

• The Social Sector Rehabilitation Programme also aims at restructuring the budget in favour of social sectors;

• The Poverty Alleviation Programme

• The introduction and implementation of the Credit Scheme for Women entrepreneurs with the support of the United Nations Development Programme;

3.1.2 Education and Training of Women

• The Government through the Ministry of Education has embarked on the Programme for the Advancement of Girls Education

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• To deliver quality education to girls and to reduce gender disparities in

The Ministry of Education has also initiated the Zambia

Education Rehabilitation Project (ZAREP) which has introduced in-service training of Education Managers, Education Management

Training for Teachers, and

Officers and Inspectors of School, with a gender component

The Government has made a pronouncement of the re-enthusing of girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy and other

measures as it means towards achieving gender balance in the

education sector and

- At tertiary level, the Government, through the Bursaries Committee, has set aside a scholarship scheme especially for girls

3.1.3 Women and Health

- The Government is in the process of formulating a health policy that take into consideration new and emerging issues and ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to meeting the health needs of all and that is in consonant with the health system

interpersonal communication, including analysis of service providers attitudes to aid in the development of appropriate materials and intervention:

- Government is in the process of retaining health personnel in order to improve health provider-client relationship as a way of improving service to the community, and

The Ministry has also adopted the Super Market Approach to

services to ensure that all health services are available

This measure is aimed at reducing the

one has to visit the health centre in search of

especially women who are mainly responsible

the sick

3.1.4 Violence

through the Zambia Police Service has

Victim Support Unit charged with the responsibility

cases of gender violence and related crimes.

✓ The Government through the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders are mounting awareness campaigns to the

3.3.2 Ensuring the full retention of girls through the education system and achieve parity in the enrolment of girls and boys in schools by the year 2000.

The Government through the Ministry of Education has revised the education policy to ensure that gender concerns are adequately incorporated. The Ministry of Education has revised the school curricular to remove all discrimination, which are designed in favour of the boy child. The Ministry has also began re-training teachers on the use of gender sensitive materials and methodologies.

The Government has also made a pronouncement on the re-admission of girls who drop out of school due to pregnancy and other related reasons as a measure towards ensuring the progression of girls in education. At tertiary level, the Government through the Bursaries Committee of the Ministry of Education has set aside a special scholarship scheme for girls (25 percent of scholarships to the University of Zambia).

3.3.3 Increasing women's access to credit

is put in place a conducive environment to ensure various institutions involved in the provision of governmental Organisations such as the Women's credit Scheme, Zambia Federation of Women, are especially involved in providing credit related services to women.

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tion of water supply and sanitation to women and

3.3.4 Ensuring girls

"Local" Government and Housing is currently Water and Sanitation, Health Education (WASHIE) includes a component on ensuring a clean and safe

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of this project is to empower the communities in facilities and to plan and implement programmes

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for themselves. In order to ensure that the project takes into account gender concerns and the Gender In Development incorporated into the National WASHE Comm

ensure that

Currently, the WASHE programme is being gender is mainstreamed into all programmes and projects implemented.

5.4.3 *Outline actions and initiatives which the Government intends to undertake to ensure that the Beijing Platform for Action is fully implemented beyond the year 2000.*

The Government started the process of engendering the National Budget to ensure that the implementation of gender and development activities are sustained.

In the same vein, the Office of the Auditor General in collaboration with the Gender In Development Division have initiated consultations on modalities of undertaking gender auditing to ensure that the process does not just focus on revenue and expenditure.