



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Briefing to member States

Africa Region Beijing Plus 20 Review

Background:

The Eighth African Regional Conference on Women held in Banjul, The Gambia from 16-20 November 2009 undertook a specific examination of the continent-wide progress within the time frame of 2005-2009. The Regional Conference on Women, came out with an outcome document called “the Banjul Declaration on the Strategies for Accelerating the Implementation of Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action” was adopted. The Declaration identified the following seven strategic areas of focus:

- Economic empowerment of women through poverty reduction, employment creation, social protection and use of information and communications technology,
- Peace, security and development
- Violence against women
- Representation and participation of women in all areas of decision-making
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS
- Climate change and food security
- Financing for gender equality
- The Banjul Declaration further committed Member States to renewing and intensifying resource mobilization efforts, improving national strategies, and enhancing institutional, financial and human resources in order to accelerate the achievement of the goals of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action as well as the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

As a follow-up to the Banjul regional conference, the 7th Session of the Committee on Women and Development (CWD) took place from 17-20 May 2011 IN Addis Ababa. The UNECA presented a five year follow-up strategy for the Beijing + 15 regional review. The overall objective of the strategy was to provide concrete actions in order to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and to address the gaps, limitations and obstacles that had been identified. The strategy took into consideration the seven critical areas that Africa identified in the Banjul Declaration as priority areas of focus.

In early 2013 UNECA administered a questionnaire to the member States to determine performance in implementing the 7 priority areas guided by the strategy that ECA presented at the 7th Session of the CWD. The results were shared with the member States at the 8th session of the CWD that took place in Addis Ababa from 12-14 November 2013. The session was attended by forty one African member States¹, the African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations agencies which were namely; UNDP, UNAIDS, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNWomen were in attendance. In addition, the following Regional Economic Communities (RECs); Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and

¹ Angola, Benin, Burundi, République Centrafricaine, Cameroun, Comoros, République du Congo, Djibouti, République démocratique du Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinée, Ghana, Guinée-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome, São Tomé e Príncipe, Sénégal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tchad, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Southern African Development Community (SADC) were represented in the meeting. Also in attendance were representatives and independent gender and development experts from, international and civil-society organizations as well the African academic institutions.

UNECA took advantage of this well attended meeting to brief the member States and all the other stakeholders on the process of the Beijing Plus 20 Review and ensure consensus on the way forward and the need for quality inputs.

The review.

1. Member States will have access to the *Guidance Note for the Preparation of National Review* through the UNWomen website as well as through the ECA websites. UNECA is also going to send to all member States the hard copies of the *Guidance Note for the Preparation of National Review*;
2. A regional report that focuses on the 7 Areas agreed in Banjul will be submitted by member States;
3. The report based on the review undertaken early 2013 and submitted to the 8th Session of the CWD in November 2013 will also enrich the Regional report to be produced in 2014;
4. Regional Economic Communities (RECs) will also submit a report that will be integrated in the regional report.

Partnerships

The Beijing Plus 20 Review led by UNECA working with UNWomen will involve all UN Agencies represented in Addis Abba, the AUC and Regional Economic Communities. Civil Society through the regional networks will work at National level in close liaison with member States.

Time table

Activity	Date	Remarks
Briefing of member States on the Beijing Plus 20 process	12-14 November 2013	Completed – at the CWD 8 th Session 12-14 November 2013
Dispatch of note guiding member States on the review and the structure of the Regional report on the 7 priority areas	By 31 December 2013	
Follow up with member States and providing support on the <i>Guidance Note and the Regional report</i>	January – April 2014	Contact with all member States. Will also use the planned pre-CSW meeting aimed for February 2014 to emphasize importance of quality response.
Receipt of responses to the <i>Guidance Note and the Regional</i>		Each will be reviewed by a team from UNECA to determine quality of inputs.
Receipt of responses to Regional Report	May 2014	Aim to get responses from all the member States of Africa
Production of African Regional Report to be presented to the Regional	July 2014	The regional report will be presented to the 9 th Regional Conference on Women

Conference on Women Nov. 2014		
9 th Regional Conference on Women	11-14 Nov. 2014	To be held in Addis Ababa and will have an outcome document