

QUESTIONNAIRE

Part One

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

- (1) Give a brief analytical overview (3 to 6 pages) of trends in your country in implementing the Platform of Action. This overview or broad picture should, for example, describe the country's policy with regard to achieving the goal of equality between women and men and should be linked to your national action plan or other plans or strategies. Your response could, for example, address questions such as:

- What have been the major achievements and/or break through in concrete terms in implementing the national action plan and/or policies and programmes for gender equality and advancement of women?

Nepal has formulated a National Action Plan on gender equality and women empowerment. The Ninth Plan has taken up the issues gender equality and women empowerment for the first time in history. Women are being taken into mainstreaming process through perspective plan and ongoing Ninth Plan.

- Is the situation of women and girls in sectors not covered by the national action plan better or worse than in 1995? Why?

Although, the authentic data are not available to analyze the trend, more or less, the situation of women and girls has been covered by the National Plan is status quo.

- Are the goals of gender equality and advancement of women being pursued as a priority in relation to other public goals? Please explain.

The development of the concept "Gender Balance" in sectoral development activities, empowering and mainstreaming women in the sphere of economic activity is certainly a progress. The horizon and magnitude of women's issues are widening – both horizontally and vertically.

- What were the country's priorities in terms of the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action? Explain.

Our country's priorities in terms of critical areas of concern of the platform for action are:

- ◆ *Women and poverty*
- ◆ *Violence against women*
- ◆ *Women and economy*
- ◆ *Women in power and decision-making*
- ◆ *Institutional mechanics for the advancement of women*
- ◆ *Human rights of women*
- ◆ *The girl child*
- ◆ *Women and education*

- Identify areas where mainstreaming a gender perspective has been most/least successful. In which sectors is a gender approach being applied? Please illustrate with examples of legislation, policies, best practice and lessons learned.

The most successful areas where mainstreaming a gender perspective are:

- ◆ *Education: equal opportunity in policy*
 - ◆ *Health*
 - ◆ *Social security*
- **Has attention to gender equality and advancement of women changes since 1995 – in Government policies, in public perception, in the media, in academic institutions? Please explain concretely the nature of the change.**

Since 1995, attention to gender equality and advancement of women has been changed through government policies. Public perception has also been changing through sensitization programmes, awareness campaign, formal/informal education. The media is selective in the issues of women, if it is profitable they do not hesitate to publish any subject matter in the magazine, journal, TV. In the academic institution also the concept is being under process of being changed through text book, curriculum and other references.

- ◆ **How has the global situation, for example, structural adjustment, the global financial crisis and/or globalization of women affected women and girls in your country?**

Nepal is also attempting to be a member of WTO. The effect of globalization is universal. The sharp depression of Asian countries hamper Nepal in a greater scale. Automatically, its effects are reflected in the employment situation. Economic recession again contributed to vicious circle of poverty.

Part Two

Financial and institutional measures

- (2) **Discuss how equality and women's advancement are addressed in the national budget. This could include an indication of the percentage of the overall budget that is allocated for women-specific policies/programmes, and any increases/decreases since 1995? What percentage of this allocation comes from international or bilateral donors? Describe efforts to monitor budgetary allocation related to achieving gender equality and advancement of women.**

The overall allocation of resources for women's programme and gender concerns is being increased annually since 1995, but it is not sufficient to meet the required needs. There is no clear-cut distribution of allocation proportion that comes from international or bilateral donors. The National Planning Commission is the monitoring institution for the budget allocation related to achieving gender equality and advancement of women.

- (3) a. **Discuss structures and mechanism that have been put in place to institutionalize follow-up to, and implementation of, Platform for Action. Describe whether similar mechanisms have been established for follow-up to other conferences, such as the World Summit for Social Development or the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights.**

This Plan of Action will be implemented by the Women in Development (WID) Division section and unit of other Women in Development sectoral ministries. The Ministry of Women and Social Welfare as a

focal point, facilitates and coordinates the whole process of implementation with the help of National Planning Commission. The other line ministries and institutions are:

- ◆ *Ministry of Law and Justice*
- ◆ *National Planning Commission*
- ◆ *Ministry of Local Development*
- ◆ *Ministry of Education*
- ◆ *Ministry of Health*
- ◆ *Ministry of Women and Social Welfare*
- ◆ *Ministry of Agriculture*
- ◆ *Ministry of Information and Communication*
- ◆ *Ministry of Defense*
- ◆ *Ministry of General Administration*
- ◆ *Ministry of Forest*
- ◆ *Ministry of Population and Environment*
- ◆ *Public Service Commission*
- ◆ *Royal Nepal Army*
- ◆ *Financial institutions*
- ◆ *Public enterprises*
- ◆ *Industries*
- ◆ *Supreme Court*
- ◆ *Hospitals and health institutions*
- ◆ *Education council*
- ◆ *University*
- ◆ *Council of Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT)*
- ◆ *Central Bureau of Statistics*
- ◆ *Social Welfare Council*
- ◆ *Pertinent INGOs/NGOs*

b. Describe the arrangements that have been made to coordinate the various follow-up efforts to global conferences.

The arrangements that have been made to coordinate the various follow-up efforts to global conferences is formulated under the coordination committees and this committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare. The members of the Committee are the secretary of the line ministries.

- ◆ *Ministry of Finance*
- ◆ *Ministry of Water Resources*
- ◆ *Ministry of Population and Environment*
- ◆ *Ministry of Home*
- ◆ *Ministry of Labor*
- ◆ *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

c. Describe the role of non-government organizations (NGOs) in planning and shaping the follow-up activities. Do members of NGOs participate formally in the mechanisms established to follow-up the Beijing Conference?

The Ninth Five-Year Plan has pointed out that the NGOs have to be integral part of government to implement the programme. The Ministry of Women and Social Welfare have been using the NGOs which operates under the umbrella of the Social Welfare Council (SWC) for this purpose. The Ministry of

Women and Social Welfare is the immediate sectoral ministry of the SWC. NGOs are involved in planning, implementation and evaluation of the programme respectively:

- ◆ *NGOs had actively participated to prepare the National Plan of Action on Beijing Platform for Action.*
- ◆ *NGOs working in the field of women and child are involved in preparing National Plan of Action for combating the Crime of Girl's trafficking.*
- ◆ *Women-focussed NGOs have also participated to prepare the concept paper of national commission for women.*

The representatives of NGOs participated in the working committee of the Ministry to prepare the report on Child Development and Child Rights.

Part Three

Implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action

A. Innovative policies, programmes, projects and good practices

- (4) **In relation to each of the twelve critical areas of concern, describe best practices and innovative actions taken by the Government or other actors (NGOs, civil society, the private sector) to achieve the objectives in each critical area of concern in the Platform for Action. Your response should refer to the country's national action plan, and could include examples of legal measures, reforms, media campaigns, and pilot programmes or projects. Please cite, any targets which were set in the Government's national action plan or other relevant plans, and indicate how far these were met. (For example, a target may have been to appoint more women to the cabinet. To what extent was it achieved?)**

All the discriminatory laws against women are proposed to be amended and National Plan of Action on girls trafficking to combat trafficking and their commercial sexual exploitation have been prepared and implemented.

A consultative workshop on "Gender Perspective in Development Planning" for secretaries and joint secretaries, heads of the planning division was held.

B. Obstacles encountered

- (5) **What obstacles were encountered and what lessons were learned in implementing policies and other measures in each critical area of concern? (For example, despite new legislation to limit traditional practices harmful to the health of women and girls, these practices continued, showing that an education campaign was also needed to bring change in behavior, or customary law was adapted to fit modern legislation when it was learned that women are more discriminated by customary laws than men).**

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C. Commitments to further action and initiatives

- (6) Many Governments to made commitments to action at the Beijing Conference. Describe steps taken by your Governments to fulfill any specific commitments it made at Beijing.

A national follow-up committee on Beijing was also constituted under the chairmanship of the Honourable Minister for Women and Social Welfare together with sub-committees composed to frame a Plan of Action on the twelve issues pertaining to women as identified in Beijing.

- (7) List any new commitments in each of the twelve critical areas of concern which your Government has made since Beijing and how these are being implemented, including any new targets which have been set and the time frame for meeting them. (For example, to increase resource allocations, to primary education and to local governments to conduct an awareness campaign among parents on the importance of sending girls to school; to review the regulations governing land rights for women and men; to increase by 50 percent the number of police officers trained to handle domestic violence cases and cases of rape.)

The National Commission for Women is going to be established in the near future. The Commission will investigate and revise all matters relating to women safeguards to women's right and development.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal (HMGN) has made a reservation policy for women in elections for Village Development Committees (VDC) as well as Municipalities. The reservation ratio is 20%.

HMG has been implementing various programmes.

Recruitment of female teachers scholarship for girls students (in school as well as campus level) in order to promote girls' enrolment in education under safe motherhood programme reproductive health services have been provided with the introduction of primary healthcare. Safe motherhood services have received increasing priorities over the past several years.

The traditional birth attendant programme has also made a significant contribution by facilitating 13624 home deliveries which has reduced maternal mortality to 515 per 100,000. The preparatory work for the establishment of Family Court has been done. The Property Right Bill for women has been developed and placed in the parliament. A Bill on Domestic Violence is in the process of being drafted.

- (8) List any further actions any initiatives which your Government believes should or could be taken to fully implement the Platform for Action beyond the year 2000. Among these, identify which ones your own Government intends to take and when.

In the context of making an effort in the field of women's advancement, a perspective plan for Gender and Equality and empowerment of women has to be developed and implemented accordingly. In this regard, we expect that full cooperation and strong continuous support will be extended from the donors' side. Similarly adequate national resources has to be allocated for the implementation of the programmes as per developed plan. We intend to start the programme from 2001.

- (9) Briefly describe your vision for women's advancement and equality for women in the new millennium.

In recognition of the fact that women's advancement and equality for women have not yet been fully integrated into plan activities, HMG wishes to promote coherent and coordinated policy of Gender equality and women's advancement in the new century. This needs further clarification of the concept of mainstreaming with specific tools among all development partners within the national development system. The responsibility of translating gender mainstreaming into actions rests at the highest level of

decision makers. Furthermore, a strong political will, committed bureaucracy, adequate allocation of human and financial resources as well as optimization of existing resources are some of the important issues so far as successful transaction of an intention into actions is concerned. Equally important task lies in building alliances and partnerships with other development partners.

The Ministry of Women and Social Welfare working as a responsible national focal point is well aware of the fact that this is a long term socio-economic process which needs a continuous support also from the bilateral and multilateral agencies.

ANNEX I

Critical Areas of Concern	Examples of successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements)	Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned	Commitment to further action/new initiatives	Other
I. Women and Poverty	To reduce feminisation in poverty and ensure equal access of women to economic resources is the main focus of poverty alleviation	Although, poverty alleviation is the main slogan of development policy but the poverty is increasing day by day	Review, adopt and maintain Macro-economic policy through government machinery is the main commitment for further action	
II. Education and training of women	Compulsory education system for the girl child and formal informal literacy programme	The literacy rate is very low in comparison with man	To increase the literacy rate is the main commitment of GOs	
III. Women and health	Perspective Health Policy is formulated. Programmes are designed in the ongoing 9th Plan. Draft Bill is under preparation	Lack of infrastructure in the sector of Health i.e. Doctor, medicines, equipment. The bill is yet to pass	Necessary activities will be taken to implement the policy programmes Follow-up will be made for the same bill	
IV. Violence against women				
V. Women and armed conflict	X	X	X	
VI. Women and the economy	Income generating programmes i.e. Micro credit Small farmer development programme	Most of the women are interested and enthusiastic to undertake income-generating activities	New micro-enterprises will be launched through Government Machinery as well as from NGOs	
VII. Women in power and decision-making	Special preparation classes for women for civil service Reservation policy for women is introduced in most by programmes 5% reservation for women in general election	Further more exercise will be made to uplift the pliable status of women in power and decision-making	New initiation will be taken to strengthen the role of women	
VIII. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women	Ministry of women and social welfare is established after the Beijing Conference Women development division/section are being established in various ministries	Delay in establishing women development section or unit in remaining Ministries	Steps has been taken to establish women development section/unit in relevant Ministries	
IX. Human rights of women	Sensitization & awareness programmes Legal education and literacy programme	Still the traditional attitude towards women has not been changed	Legislative measures will be extended	
X. Women and the media	Gender balance are being made in the mainstreaming and dissemination of information	Remove negative effects for women through discouragement in magazines, newspapers, newsletters, articles, songs, films, TV	New programmes and policies will be introduced through GO sector and NGOs	
XI. Women and the environment	Involvement of women in every level of decision making concerning environment	Importance of women involvement has been realised	Policy guideline will be strictly followed and other improvement will be made.	
XII. The girl child	Promotion and protection of the rights of the girl child. National Policy on girls and women trafficking is being approved and various programmes are being implemented	Most of the parents are being made aware of the right of the girl-child	New programmes will be taken through education, health care and security.	

ANNEX II

Common Data Sets/Indicators for Measuring Development Progress

The following is a consolidated list of data sets/indicators which have been identified by the United Nations for use in planning and monitoring development achievements. It is supplied here for reference only. Much of this information is already available to the United Nations. To be useful, all data should be disaggregated by sex and age in order to show any gaps between men and women. Should any recent censuses or surveys in these areas have been conducted, you are requested to supply this information.

- | <p style="text-align: center;">Population and Fertility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population size 20831644 • Population aged <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px; width: 80%;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Male</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Female</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4;</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3235783</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1658101</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1577683</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-14;</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5360656</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2723282</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2637373</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-49;</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9829670</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4826699</td> <td style="text-align: right;">5000971</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50+</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2407535</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1185831</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1221704</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> • Population by urban 2207967(10.6%) • Population by rural distribution 18623677(89.4%) • Population growth rate 2.38% • Total fertility rate 4.6 • Fertility rate for women aged 15-19 | | Total | Male | Female | 0-4; | 3235783 | 1658101 | 1577683 | 5-14; | 5360656 | 2723282 | 2637373 | 15-49; | 9829670 | 4826699 | 5000971 | 50+ | 2407535 | 1185831 | 1221704 | <p style="text-align: center;">Gender equality in education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratio of boys in primary and secondary education combined 134% • Ratio of literate females to males at ages 15-24 N.A. |
|---|---|---------|---------|--------|------|---------|---------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-----|---------|---------|---------|--|
| | Total | Male | Female | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-4; | 3235783 | 1658101 | 1577683 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 50+ | 2407535 | 1185831 | 1221704 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Mortality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life expectancy at birth 54.3 • Infant mortality rate 79 per th Live birth • Under-five mortality rate 118 per th live birth • Maternal mortality rate 515 per 100000 | <p style="text-align: center;">Economic activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment ratio 7.6% • Employment-population ratio N.A. • % of labour force engaged in agriculture 81.3% • % of labour force engaged in industry 9.1% • % of labour force engaged in services 10.6% • % of labour force by employment status N.A. • % of children aged 10-14 who are working 57% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population with access to health services 15800 per sons per medical doctor | <p style="text-align: center;">Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNP at current price 1996/97 285243 mill. • GNP per capita \$ 244 for 1996/97 • GDP per capita \$ 234 for 1996/97 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Reproductive health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contraceptive prevalence rate 31.03% • % of births attended by trained health personnel N.A. • HIV adult prevalence rate N.A. • HIV prevalence in 15-24 year old pregnant women N.A. | <p style="text-align: center;">Income and poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House income per capita N.A. • % of population below poverty-line 45% • Proportion of children under age 5 underweight N.A. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Education

- Adult literacy rate 48%
- Literacy rate of 10-14 year olds 63.2%
- Net primary enrolment ratio 67.5%
- % reaching grade 5/completion of grade 4 N.A.
- Net secondary enrolment ratio 17.3% for 1995
- Average no. of years of schooling completed 18-20 years N.A.

Housing and environment

- Floor area per person N.A.
- No. of persons per room excluding kitchen and bathroom N.A.
- % population with access to adequate sanitation N.A.
- % population with access to safe drinking water 70%
- % population with access to electricity 10%
- % population relying on traditional fuels for energy use 90%
- Arable land per capita N.A.

Human Security and Social justice

- No. of victims of violence per 1000 people N.A.
- No. of persons in prison per 100,000 people N.A.