

Replies to the Questionnaire to Governments on Implementation of
the Beijing Platform for Action by the Department of Women, the
Family and Children of the Ministry of Labour of the Russian
Federation and the State Statistical Committee (GOSKOMSTAT)

Part One

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

Efforts towards the advancement of the social and economic situation of Russian women are based on the adoption of a set of immediate and long-term measures and the elaboration of a unified Government policy on women which calls in the first place for the development of the legislative and normative base for solving problems affecting women and establishing a national mechanism to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women and men and the elimination of discrimination against women.

The basic thrust of Russia's activities for the implementation of the Beijing final documents was built on strengthening preventive and protective measures for the advancement of women. At the same time work was carried out to draw the attention of society to the problems faced by women, and to seek effective ways of solving them.

In November 1997 the State Duma and Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation adopted "Guidelines for legislative activities to protect the right of men and women to equality of opportunity", which outlined a strategy for the development of Russian legislation to prevent gender discrimination.

The Guidelines give consideration to the right to equal participation of men and women in decision-making at all levels of legislative, executive and judicial power and in the organs of local self-government, social and labour rights, prevention of violence and personal security, protection of reproductive health, maternity and childhood, and a State mechanism for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for men and women.

Analysis of the results achieved by the Russian State policies towards women has made it possible to assess the progress in the advancement of women, and also to identify the difficulties which remain to be overcome.

Progress achieved in the advancement of women

1. The social and economic reforms implemented in the Russian Federation have contributed to the establishment of the elements of a market model of the economy, the formation of a non-State sector of the economy and the emergence of new attitudes on the labour market. During this period significant changes in the social sphere occurred - the introduction of insurance principles in health care, the expansion of the non-State sector in providing social services and of the range of paid services available to the population. All of the above expanded the possibilities for self-realization and created the conditions for freedom of choice for all citizens of Russia as a whole, including women, and

defined the varied forms of women's participation in the social, employment, political and public spheres of life.

2. Bearing available resources in mind, the Russian Federation has taken legislative and administrative measures designed to advance the status of women, protect their rights and interests and mitigate the effects of crisis situations on society. The adoption of legislation directly aimed at protecting the constitutional rights of women and establishing equality of opportunity between men and women was a result of the democratization of society.

During the period under consideration, a number of decrees by the President of the Russian Federation were approved aimed at improving the status of women in society and increasing their role in decision-making at all levels.

The Government of the Russian Federation approved the Guidelines for the Advancement of Women in the Russian Federation, which define the basic areas calling for special concern: exercise of women's rights in decision-making at all levels, ensuring equal rights in the job market, protecting the health of women, violence against women.

For the implementation of the strategic goals contained in the Guidelines, a National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women and the expansion of their Role in Society by the Year 2000 was drawn up and adopted. The Government of the Russian Federation is monitoring the implementation of the measures specified in the National Plan.

3. The period 1995-1997 was characterized by significant strengthening of the role of the organs of the legislative and executive branches of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation in implementing measures envisaged for the advancement of women in all spheres of activity and prohibition of gender discrimination. The work of the organs of local self-government in resolving concrete problems in implementation of social policy took on special significance during this period. In the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, special programmes were developed aimed at solving the social problems of women, family and children, assistance with women's employment, protection of their health, ensuring reproductive rights, and so on.

In order to ease the situation in the job market in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, a major effort was conducted to organize job training for poorly protected categories of unemployed citizens, including disabled women, mothers of large families and single mothers, and women with minor children and disabled children. Generally, job training for these categories of citizens is oriented towards the possibility of working at home.

A priority direction in ensuring women's employment in many regions of the Russian Federation is the development and support of female entrepreneurial initiative. The regional employment services are providing training to women in occupations which lead them into entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Additional measures have been taken to support families with minor children and the system of allowances to women on the birth of a child is being improved.

Measures are being taken to develop the system of social services for families with children and for children so as to expand the range of social services offered with a view to the prevention and alleviation of critical life situations; this should help strengthen the institution of the family and contribute to a more even division of family responsibilities and the protection of the interests of the individual.

Federal special-purpose programmes incorporating measures to improve the situation of women are being formulated and carried out. These programmes include the federal special-purpose programme to promote employment of the population of the Russian Federation in 1998-2000, the federal programme of State support for small-scale entrepreneurship in the Russian Federation, and the programme of social reforms in the Russian Federation for the period 1996-2000. Within the framework of the Presidential programme "Children of the Russian Federation", programmes entitled "Safe motherhood" and "Development of the system of social service institutions for families, women and children" are being carried out.

6. The reporting period is characterized both by the continued development of the network of social services for families and children, which by the beginning of 1999 had 2,134 units, and by the emergence of new specialized social service institutions: the crisis centres for assistance to women who have found themselves in a difficult life situation.

At the beginning of 1999, crisis centres for assistance to women were functioning in six regions of the Russian Federation, and in 1998 over 5,000 women and over 1,000 families received help. In addition, 32 centres to assist battered women are in operation in the Russian Federation, organized by non-governmental organizations and working in close contact with the appropriate State services.

7. The family planning service is continuing to be developed; its work is aimed at protecting, preserving and improving the health of women and children and the reproductive health of the population and preventing child disability. The family planning services carry out work to upgrade the system of sex education for adolescents.

As a result of the programme measures which are being carried out, there has been a trend towards a decline in infant and maternal mortality. The number of induced abortions has fallen by nearly one quarter.

Part Two

Financial and institutional measures

3 (a) National machinery has been established in the Russian Federation to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women and the elimination of discrimination against women in all branches of authority in the Russian Federation, including the presidential, legislative, and executive authorities, both at the federal level and at the level of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

The Commission for Women, the Family and Demography, attached to the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, is a collegial advisory body for the formulation and coordination of State policy for achieving equal rights and opportunities for women and men, improving the status of women, supporting the family, and solving demographic problems in the Russian Federation.

The Committee on Women, Family and Youth was established at the second session of the State Duma (the lower house of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation).

In order to strengthen the national machinery for ensuring equal rights and equal opportunities and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, and taking into account the recommendations of the final documents of the Fourth World Conference for Women, the Government of the Russian Federation has a commission on questions of improving the status of women; its main task is to coordinate the efforts of the federal executive bodies and the executive bodies of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation in the formulation and implementation of strategies for improving the situation of women in the Russian Federation. The Commission is headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

The Department for Family, Women's and Children's Questions operates within the Ministry of Labour and Social Development of the Russian Federation and has responsibility for coordinating overall State policy with regard to the family, achieving social equality for women, and ensuring the survival and healthy development of children.

The work of the structures concerned with solving the problems of women, the family and children operating within State bodies at the federal and regional levels has been significantly expanded.

In the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, commissions on questions of improving the status of women have been set up in administrative regions, districts and towns.

(b) The holding of global conferences has a broad impact in our country. The issues they consider and the decisions they adopt are publicized in the mass media. The recommendations made in the final documents of world conferences are implemented by the federal executive bodies and the executive bodies of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation which are competent to deal with these problems. Non-governmental organizations are involved in the implementation of decisions.

(c) The work of women's non-governmental organizations and public associations has been considerably intensified, as one of the components of the non-profit sector of the economy.

The Russian Federation currently has registered at the federal and interregional levels over 650 non-governmental organizations which bring women together to resolve the most complex problems facing society, while over 15,000 women's organizations at the city and local levels are in operation in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

One aspect of the consolidation of the efforts of all the participants in the social development process has been the emergence of a new phenomenon - a social partnership between State structures and public non-governmental organizations which makes it possible to solve the most complex social problems through combined efforts.

The State carries out its work with women's public organizations on the basis of agreements on joint action and protocols of intent; it participates in activities and events carried out by women's non-governmental organizations and organizes round tables on various questions of improving the status of women and the work of these organizations.

For example, a round table of women's public associations and non-profit organizations operates on a full-time basis in the Ministry of Labour of the Russian Federation; at its meetings, consideration is given to urgent problems of improving the socio-economic situation of Russian women, draft national reports, plans and so forth.

Part Three

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

A. Innovative policies, programmes, projects and good practices

In 1996 the Government of the Russian Federation adopted guidelines for improving the situation of women in the Russian Federation, which define the main areas of special concern - observance of women's rights as part of human rights and fundamental freedoms, participation of women in decision-making at all levels, ensuring equal rights in the labour market, protection of women's health, and violence against women.

In order to implement the strategies laid down in the guidelines, a national plan of action up to the year 2000 to improve the situation of women and enhance their role in society has been formulated and approved by the Government of the Russian Federation.

Observance of women's rights in conjunction with human rights and fundamental freedoms

In accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, men and women have equal rights and freedoms and equal opportunities to pursue them. However, these constitutional provisions are still often declarative in nature, since the system of measures to ensure their implementation is not sufficiently developed or effective.

In order to remedy this situation, in November 1996 the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation adopted guidelines on legislative action to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for men and women.

The Government of the Russian Federation is paying a great deal of attention to the observance of women's rights. In 1998, a nationwide conference entitled "Women and development: rights, reality, prospects" was held. Congresses devoted to consideration of issues of the status of women have been held, entitled: "Women in politics, politics for women" and "Women for social security and stable development".

Issues of the equal rights of women and men are more and more frequently being taken up at international seminars. In 1998, the following seminars, among others, were held: "The policy of equal opportunities for women and men: comparative legislation, principles and programmes of the European Union and the Russian Federation" and "Promotion of employment and equal rights for women in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States".

The number of special women's newspapers and magazines has increased considerably.

The theme of the status of women is present to some degree in nearly all publications of a socio-political or cultural and educational character. There is coverage of questions of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for men and women in social and economic life, the welfare of children and mothers, and women's health. In some newspapers and magazines, special sections are devoted to such subjects.

The specialists believe, however, that publications concerned with defining the role and place of women in society and changing the stereotyped concepts of women account for no more than 2 per cent of overall materials. As a rule, articles and comments about women and for women appearing in the Russian press are either concerned with criminal situations involving violence against women, or are confined to advice on housekeeping.

In recent years, along with magazines and newspapers for light reading, a number of serious publications have appeared dealing with topical issues of the development of the women's movement, the work of legislative and executive bodies in implementing the strategies for the improvement of the situation of women, and other topics. These publications include the national newspaper "Zhenashchiny Rossii" ("Women of Russia"), which has been published since 1995, the magazine "Yaroslavya" (Moscow), established in 1996, the magazine "Prava zhenshchin v Rossii" ("Women's rights in the Russian Federation") published since 1998, the newspapers "Zhenshchina" ("Woman") (Kazan) and "Orenburgskaya sudarynya", the national weekly "Moskvichka" ("Moscow woman"), founded by the Government of Moscow, and a number of others.

Participation of women in decision-making at all levels

Nine per cent of women in the civil service held managerial posts in 1997.

Sixty women were elected to the first State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and 46 women to the second State Duma.

The need to ensure appropriate representation of women in the formulation and implementation of State policy was reflected in a decree of the President of

the Russian Federation "On enhancing the role of women in the system of federal organs of State power and State power organs of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation".

The measures included in the decree are designed to increase the participation of women in all spheres of the life of society and, above all, in the management of State affairs and decision-making.

In order to implement the decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On enhancing the role of women in the system of federal organs of State power and State power organs of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation" and activate work with civil service personnel, a system of procedure has been drawn up for organizing work on the establishment of a data bank on female federal employees as an integral part of the data bank on State employees. Work is currently under way on drawing up this procedure.

Ensuring equal rights in the labour market

In order to promote the employment of women and support the development of women's entrepreneurial initiatives, a federal special-purpose programme to promote employment of the population of the Russian Federation in 1998-2000 and a federal programme of State support for small businesses in the Russian Federation are being conducted.

The federal and regional employment promotion programmes incorporate special measures to promote the employment of women, including:

The organization of job fairs for women;

The implementation of programmes for the social adaptation of the unemployed: "Job-seekers' club", "Fresh start", "Practical skills for youth" and so forth;

Re-training and refresher training for unemployed women with young children;

The establishment of job quotas for this category of unemployed persons;

The promotion of entrepreneurship.

Vocational training for unemployed women is mainly directed towards retraining (54.5 per cent of all women who have received vocational training) and basic training (21.3 per cent). Every tenth woman has qualified for a second (related) occupation.

Article 5 of the Act of the Russian Federation "On education" guarantees access to education regardless of race, ethnic origin, language, sex, age, state of health, social, financial or official status, social origin, place of residence, attitude to religion, belief or party affiliation. Citizens of the Russian Federation have the opportunity to receive free general and, on a

competitive basis, vocational education in State and municipal educational institutions meeting State educational standards.

Temporary measures limiting the access of women to a number of occupations remain in force, however. This is because the training of skilled workers in vocational training institutions is carried out in accordance with the list of occupations which meet the State standard for vocational training of the Russian Federation. Access to some occupations is restricted by a rule allowing vocational training for women and minors only in occupations and for industries and work in which their employment is duly permitted; this rule is laid down in the standard regulations on the continuous vocational and economic training of specialized workers in the national economy approved by the State Labour Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the State Committee on Education of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions in June 1988.

In basic vocational training institutions, preferential treatment is given to women with young children: individual timetables are drawn up for attending classes, carrying out laboratory work, and taking tests and examinations.

Students of both sexes are educated together in the educational institutions of the Russian Federation: they follow the same courses, use the same textbooks, study aids and equipment, and are taught the same subjects, using identical training techniques, teaching methods and teaching aids.

Equal opportunities for obtaining grants and other educational allowances are guaranteed by law.

The inadequate level of budgetary financing is having an adverse effect on the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the educational sphere. The education system's financial difficulties are stimulating the development of fee-paying education. The partial privatization of existing educational institutions and the emergence of new private ones are making it difficult to prevent inequalities in access to education. As a result, well-off families have greater opportunities of obtaining education.

The financial difficulties which Russian families face are leading to an increase in the number of children forced to leave general-education middle schools. Work is under way in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation to mitigate the adverse effects of this process and to create conditions in which young people, and girls in particular, can continue in education.

Health care for women

In 1996-1997, the Russian Federation adopted legislation to safeguard the health of pregnant women: the allowance for women who put themselves under medical supervision in the early stages of pregnancy has been raised to minimum-wage levels, and maternity leave has been increased by 14 days for women carrying more than one child.

The Labour Code of the Russian Federation secures pregnant women's right to medical check-ups in working hours without loss of pay.

To guarantee people's rights to free medical care, the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation has developed a Federal programme of State safeguards and standards for the provision of free medical care for children, pregnant women and women in childbirth, including those with various health problems.

The rights of families in the field of health care are backed by the "Foundations of State Social Policy for Improving the Status of Children" - which were set out in January 1996 by the Government of the Russian Federation in its Act "On a Plan of Action to Improve the Status of Children in the Russian Federation" - and by the "National Plan of Action to Improve the Status of Women and Enhance their Role in Society by the Year 2000", which make provision for specific measures to realize these rights.

State social policy towards women, children and the family as a whole is currently defined by the Presidential Decree "On Fundamental Directions in State Policy on the Family".

The mechanisms for implementing these fundamental directions in the area of maternal and child health care are reflected in the special-purpose Federal programmes "Safe Motherhood", "Family Planning" and "Sick Children" under the President's "Russia's Children" programme, which was established in August 1994 by Presidential Decree. The programme was extended to 2000 by a Federal Act in September 1997 and by a Presidential Decree in January 1998.

Over the term of the Federal "Safe Motherhood", "Family Planning" and "Sick Children" programmes, 200 family planning and reproductive health centres, 61 perinatal centres and 14 medical teaching centres were created in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, together with a medical genetics service and rehabilitation therapy divisions in the major regional centres. Also, the first Republic-wide sanatorium/health resort division was established for the rehabilitation of reproductive disorders in teenage girls.

Federal legislation to provide social protection for mothers has been developed and adopted: under the Federal Acts "On the Introduction of Changes to the Federal Act 'On State Benefits for Citizens with Children'" and "On the Introduction of Changes and Additions to the Labour Code of the Russian Federation", monthly benefits are raised to the level of the minimum monthly wage for women who register in early pregnancy, women carrying more than one child have pre-natal leave granted at 28 weeks and pregnant women may have medical check-ups during working hours without loss of pay at their main place of work.

Families with children have the right to special benefits in the area of health care as prescribed in the Russian Federation's legislation, including free medication for children up to age three, and up to age six for low-income families, special milk products for children in the first two years of life, additional living space and social benefits for a large range of illnesses, payment of travel costs to the place of treatment and so on.

High priority is being given to combating the spread of Human Immunodeficiency Virus, including amongst women. Towards this end, a special-purpose Federal programme, "Anti-HIV AIDS", has been developed and funded. Currently, a draft Government decree "On Urgent Measures to Prevent the Spread of HIV Infection" is being prepared. A new Federal programme "On Measures to Develop Oncological Care for the Population of the Russian Federation" is being developed, which will provide for measures to achieve the goals it sets for work on keeping women healthy. In June 1998, a special-purpose Federal programme was established on "Urgent Measures to Combat Tuberculosis in Russia in 1998, 1999 and 2000".

Violence against women

In recent years, ill-treatment of women and violence against them have increased in our society. The number of crimes where women are the victims has risen. The percentage of crimes committed out of jealousy or as a result of quarrels and for other domestic reasons increased from 7 per cent in 1994 to 12.9 per cent in 1996, while crimes for gain rose from 16.3 per cent to 21.8 per cent. Crimes committed for the purpose of obtaining drugs tripled in number. However, over this period there was a noticeable drop in the numbers of recorded criminal assaults on women: the number of rapes and attempted rapes fell from 14,000 in 1994 to 9,300 in 1997.

To support women in difficult life situations, including those who have been subjected to violence, an expanding network of social services offices for families and children has been established. Between 1995 and 1998, the number of these offices rose from 997 to 2,134.

At the beginning of 1998 there were six women's crisis centres in operation providing legal, medical, psychological, educational and other forms of help for women in difficult life situations. Also, Russia has 32 help centres for women victims of violence, organized by non-governmental organizations and working closely with the corresponding State services.

In 1998, a Russian-American conference on "Preventing Domestic Violence against Women: the Experience of Russia and the United States of America" and other conferences were held.

Under the Federal Act "On Mass Information Media", specialized erotic radio and television programmes may be broadcast only between 11 p.m. and 4 a.m. local time. Retail sales of mass media products specializing in materials and communications with an erotic content are permitted only in special packaging and at specially designated premises. However, because of the lack of reliable control on the part of the State and its law-enforcement organs, these provisions are often breached.

B. Existing obstacles to the advancement of women and measures taken to overcome them

In the Russian Federation, there are serious problems in the areas of women's vital activities which are cause for concern to the organs of State and to society as a whole.

1. The social and economic transformations that took place in the country between 1995 and 1997 led to significant differences in the living standards of Russian women. About 30 per cent of Russian women are unemployed, indigent and single and require specific forms of social support. The incomes of this category of the population are largely restricted to the social payments they receive and as a rule they live below the poverty line.

Of unemployed parents bringing up minor children or caring for those who have been invalids since childhood, 74 per cent were women; women make up 92 per cent of unemployed single parents; and 76 per cent of parents with large families are women.

The income levels of almost a third of Russian women were below the minimum needed to live on. The biggest concentration of workers with pay 50 per cent or less of that minimum is in the budget's social sector, which employ mainly women. Women's wages range from 65 per cent of men's in the machine-tool industry (where 42 per cent of the workforce are women) to 82 per cent to 90 per cent in the footwear and apparel industry (where 70 per cent to 90 per cent are women).

The financial crisis which broke out in August 1998 significantly worsened the already difficult social and economic situation in the country, causing a sharp rise in inflation and reducing the population's purchasing power; since then, the living standards of Russian citizens have continued to fall.

2. The role of women in decision-making at all levels remains insignificant. Their representation in the highest offices of State does not correspond to their real contribution to strengthening the State system.

The adoption of the Presidential Decree "On Increasing the Role of Women in the System of the Federal Organs of State Power and the Organs of State Power of the Constituent Parts of the Russian Federation" shows that the President and the Government acknowledge the need to develop additional measures to attract women to high office. However, no real results have yet been achieved in the attempt to solve this problem.

3. The inadequate access for women to financial, credit and property rights institutions, property and land that prevailed at the beginning of the market-oriented transformations, the way women were de facto excluded from privatization, and the displacement of women from the high-income sectors of the economy are making women's adaptation to market conditions more difficult and are significantly diminishing their enjoyment of the equal opportunities set out in the legislation.

The trend in recent years towards a falling proportion of women in sectors such as commerce, catering, lending, finance and insurance, which used to be considered the sectors in which women predominated numerically, can be explained by the fact that these sectors are experiencing the fastest wages growth and a corresponding displacement of women.

4. Elements of gender-based discrimination in employment persist.

State labour inspections show that violations of the legislation on women's employment are occurring on a massive scale. Over a nine-month period in 1998, the Russian Labour Inspectorate conducted more than 5,000 special-purpose checks, discovering and rectifying 20,600 breaches of the legislation on employment and labour protection for women.

The situation in terms of labour protection for women remains unfavourable. Women suffer a large number of industrial injuries. The worst situation for industrial injuries and working conditions is to be found in agricultural enterprises and organizations, where over 19,000 women are injured every year.

The major problem remains of getting women out of these workplaces. This must go hand in hand with an appropriate system of retraining and the creation of additional jobs. Provision is made to solve this problem in the National Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women and Enhancement of Their Role in Society by the Year 2000.

During 1998, in preparation for relieving women of heavy manual labour and work in unhealthy or hazardous conditions, the constituent parts of the Russian Federation engaged in a certification exercise for workplaces where conditions are unhealthy or hazardous. Plans (programmes) were then developed for relieving women of such work and providing them with retraining and job placement (implementation began in 1999).

5. Despite the steps being taken by the Government, between 1995 and 1997 there was a deterioration in women's health. The number of normal births declined and the number of abnormal deliveries grew, as did morbidity in pregnant women - anaemia, circulatory problems and late pregnancy toxæmia. The number of women with tuberculosis rose and the incidence of HIV infection more than quadrupled.

6. The rise in chargeable public services is a matter for concern, especially in health and education, where realization of the constitutional rights to free medical care and free education is thereby being significantly impeded.

Sixty-three per cent of all consumer service enterprises are outside the State sector. Sixty-seven per cent of laundries, 52 per cent of public bathing facilities and 42 per cent of drycleaners have remained in the state sector.

The current trend in the Russian Federation is for the proportion of chargeable services in the health system to increase. In that connection, the constituent parts of the Russian Federation are implementing measures to provide social support for specific population groups such as women.

The education system is characterized by the development of alternative forms of instruction, including fee-paying education, which may be provided by either state or private educational structures.

Fee-paying education has shown a significant increase in recent years. In 1997 alone, the volume of education services provided by the private sector increased by over 40 per cent.

The cost of preschool care for children has risen significantly.

In the Russian Federation, there is a differentiated approach to charging for the use of state preschool services; their cost to a family does not exceed 20 per cent of the total cost of keeping a child in a preschool institution; for certain groups of children, such as children from large families, the fee is even less. Developmentally challenged children attend preschool institutions free of charge.

7. Ill-treatment and violence against women continues to pose a serious problem. In recent years, this domestic problem has been compounded by the illicit trafficking in women for sexual exploitation abroad. The situation is exacerbated by a lack of statistical data on this process, as well as an absence of legislative provisions and criminal procedural work on the relevant preliminary investigations.

The Government of the Russian Federation is concerned at the spread of such a negative phenomenon as the illicit trafficking in women for sexual exploitation abroad. In 1997, these issues were addressed at meetings of the Security Committee of the State Duma; seminars and consultations were held with the participation of Russian and foreign specialists, representatives of interested legislative and executive bodies and the general public.

The Russian Federation has assumed the obligations under the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

There is currently a lack of statistical data on the problem of unlawful trafficking in women and girls across the borders of the Russian Federation.

In the Russian Federation, approaches to legal regulation of criminal procedure are currently being elaborated in respect of issues connected with the illicit trafficking in Russian women abroad. The problem is compounded by the fact that the crimes themselves tend to be committed on the territories of other States, hence the importance of coordinating international efforts in this area.

C. Commitments to further action and initiatives

5. In accordance with the obligations assumed by the Government of the Russian Federation at the Beijing Conference:

- The Russian Federation has ratified International Labour Organization Convention No. 156 concerning Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities;
- A system of measures to control violence against women is being developed;
- As a result of actions taken, maternal and infant mortality is being stabilized, and the number of abortions has been reduced by nearly a quarter;
- Vocational training programmes for the unemployed are being drawn up and put into practice, with priority accorded to the vocational training of women with minor children;
- Efforts are being undertaken to ensure the equal participation of men and women in the holding of public office;
- A social partnership between state structures and non-governmental women's organizations is being promoted with a view to tackling the problems of improving the status of women.

7. In 1999-2000, the national plan of action for improving the status of women will continue to be implemented with a view to promoting the employment of women, providing support for unemployed women who are the sole breadwinners in their families, and for families in which both parents are unemployed, assisting in the promotion of women's business initiatives, and developing a network of specialized institutions for the provision of social services for women and children.

8. As a result of discussions in the Commission on improving the Status of Women under the Government of the Russian Federation regarding progress in implementing the national plan of action for improving the status of women and enhancing their role in society in the period up to the year 2000, a decision was taken concerning the need for revision and updating of the plan. Proposals received from state bodies and non-governmental organizations for broadening the scope of the national plan will serve as a basis for the elaboration of a new strategy for action to improve the status of women in the long term.

SET OF INDICES/INDICATORS COMMONLY USED TO EVALUATE
PROGRESS MADE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

	1995	1996	1997	1998
<u>Population and birth rate</u>				
<u>Number of permanent inhabitants</u> <u>at year end, thousands</u>				
Total population				
Men and women	147 608.9	147 137.3	146 739.4	146 336.4
Men	69 288.7	69 029.0	68 823.6	...
Women	78 320.1	78 108.2	77 915.8	...
Urban population				
Men and women	107 671.2	107 347.4	107 082.5	106 841.2
Men	50 325.6	50 199.7	49 973.6	...
Women	57 345.7	57 227.7	57 108.9	...
Rural population				
Men and women	39 937.6	39 789.8	39 656.9	39 497.2
Men	18 562.2	18 509.3	18 050.6	...
Women	20 574.4	20 880.5	20 805.9	...
<u>Number of permanent inhabitants</u> <u>aged (years):</u>				
0-4				
Boys and girls	7 585 277	7 090 368	6 748 879	...
Boys	3 891 617	3 638 493	3 461 574	...
Girls	3 693 660	3 451 775	3 287 345	...
5-14				
Boys and girls	30 968 201	30 059 473	28 817 522	...
Boys	15 007 161	15 350 825	14 925 800	...
Girls	15 151 040	14 708 648	14 192 033	...
15-19				
Men and women	76 786 263	77 141 681	77 507 652	...
Men	38 413 109	38 552 944	38 712 260	...
Women	38 373 153	38 588 737	38 795 422	...
20+				
Men and women	24 717 121	25 108 285	25 788 576	...
Men	8 296 840	8 490 656	8 813 128	...
Women	16 438 261	16 617 645	16 975 458	...

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	1995	1996	1997	1998
<u>Annual rate of increase of permanent population, percentage</u>				
Total population				
Men and women	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Men	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	...
Women	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	...
Urban population				
Men and women	-0.2	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2
Men	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	...
Women	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	...
Rural population				
Men and women	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.4
Men	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	...
Women	-0.1	-0.4	-0.4	...
<u>Total birth rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)</u>	9.3	8.9	8.6	8.8
<u>Birth rate among women aged 15-19 years (per 1,000 women)</u>	45.6	39.7	36.2	...
<u>Mortality</u>				
<u>Life expectancy at birth</u>				
Men and women	64.64	65.80	64.54	67.20
Men	62.27	59.71	60.77	61.1
Women	71.70	72.49	72.89	72.80
<u>Infant mortality (per 1,000 births)</u>				
Boys and girls	28.3	19.4	17.2	16.7
Boys	20.5	19.8	19.5	...
Girls	15.6	14.7	14.6	...
<u>Mortality among children aged 0-5 (per 1,000 births)</u>				
Boys and girls	23.7	21.4	21.2	...
Boys	25.8	24.4	23.9	...
Girls	19.4	18.3	18.3	...
<u>Maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)</u>	53.3	48.9	50.2	...

Provisional data.

Housing provision and environment

	Unit of measurement	1995	1996	1997	1998
Average housing provision measured by total area per inhabitant	m ²	18.1	18.1	18.6	
Number of persons living in one room ^a					
Dwellings equipped with amenities and services	%				
Running water		71	71	72	
Sanitation		66	67	67	
Hot water		55	56	57	
Central heating		68	69	70	
Gas		69	65	69	
Electric stoves		15	16	16	
Electricity		100	100	100	

Amount of land under cultivation per head of population

Area of arable and ploughed land per head of population

	Unit of measurement	1995	1996	1997
Arable land	hectare	1.45	1.50	1.50
including ploughed land		0.88	0.87	0.87

^a Data will be available on 30 July 1999.

^b No data available.

Education

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Literacy rate among the population aged 15 years and over, percentage ¹	98.4			
Men	99.5			
Women	97.1	...	...	...
Literacy rate among the population aged 15 to 24 years, percentage ¹	99.7			
Men	99.7			
Women	99.8	...	...	...
Percentage of pupils aged 7 to 9 years enrolled in primary schools	107.9	110.2	111.9	113.3
Percentage of pupils admitted to the fifth grade of day schools providing general education upon completion of third (fourth) grade	101.3	101.5	102.4	101.5
Percentage of pupils aged 10 to 16 years enrolled in the fifth to eleventh (twelfth) grades of day schools providing general education	80.1	81.4	82.3	83.4
Average number of years of schooling completed per capita	9	9	9	9

¹ According to data from the 1994 population micro-census.

Personal security and social justiceNumber of victims of violent acts per 2,000 inhabitants¹Number of persons in prison per 100,000 inhabitants¹Health

Inhabitants with access to health-care services

	1995	1996	1997
Hospital provision (number of hospital beds)			
Total, thousands	1 850	1 813	1 755
Per 10,000 inhabitants	126.2	123.9	121.0
Capacity of outpatients' clinics (number of visits per shift)			
Total, thousands	3 458	3 470	3 475
Per 10,000 inhabitants	235.6	237.1	238.1

Reproductive health

	1995	1996	1997
Proportion of the population using contraceptive devices			
Proportion of women using contraceptive devices,² percentage			
Intra-uterine coils	18.9	18.7	17.7
Hormonal contraceptives	4.6	6.0	6.8
Percentage of deliveries performed by qualified medical personnel			
Proportion of deliveries performed in maternity wards, percentage	99.13	99.13	99.14
Proportion of the adult population infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)			
Number of adults aged 15 years and over infected with HIV ³	194	1 510	4 339
Proportion of women infected with HIV among pregnant women aged 15 to 24 years¹			

¹ As a percentage of the number of women aged 15 to 49 years.

According to data from the Russian Scientific and Methodological Centre for the Prevention and Treatment of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

³ Russian Federation State Committee on Statistics has no data.

Gender equality in the field of education

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Proportion of boys among pupils attending day schools providing general education, percentage	49.8	49.8	49.8	49.8

Economic activity of the population

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Unemployment rate, ¹ percentage	9.5	9.7	11.8	23.3
Men	9.7	10.0	12.2	13.6
Women	9.3	9.3	11.5	13.0
Employment rate, ¹ percentage	58.6	57.6	54.9	52.9
Men	65.0	63.9	60.9	58.9
Women	52.8	51.9	49.5	47.6
Percentage of total number of employed persons:				
By employment status: ²				
Hired workers	...	...	95.2	95.1
Men	...	...	94.5	94.5
Women	...	...	96.1	96.1
Self-employed	...	...	4.8	4.6
Men	...	...	5.5	5.4
Women	...	...	3.8	3.7
By type of activity of the main place of employment: ³				
In industry	35.9	34.0	23.0	22.2
In construction	9.1	8.9	8.7	8.5
In farming and forestry	15.1	14.4	13.7	13.8
In the services sector	49.7	51.9	54.6	54.3

¹ Number of unemployed persons as a proportion of the economically active population.

² According to data from a sample survey of the workforce; 1995, 1997 and 1998 - as at end October; 1996 - as at end March.

³ Number of employed persons aged 15 to 72 years as a proportion of the total population in that age group.

⁴ According to data from the manpower survey; annual average.

⁵ Estimate.

Economy

	Unit of measurement	1995	1996	1997	1998 ¹⁾
GDP	Billions of roubles	1 585 025.8	2 200 225.3	2 562 597.8	2 684 510.5 ²⁾
Per capita GDP	Millions of roubles	10 659.4	14 892.6	17 195.7	18 273.5 ²⁾

Income and poverty levels

Per capita income

(roubles per month)³⁾

1995	1996	1997	1998
515.4	761.2	914.7	958.6
24.7	22.1	20.8	23.8

¹⁾ Provisional data.²⁾ Millions of roubles.³⁾ Thousands of roubles.⁴⁾ Based on 1998 prices.