

**RESPONSE TO UN QUESTIONNAIRE TO  
GOVERNMENTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

Part One

**OVERVIEW OF TRENDS IN ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY  
AND WOMEN'S ADVANCEMENT.**

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms its commitment to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Soon after the Beijing Conference, the Government of Tanzania developed and adopted an action plan within the National Sub-Programme for women and Gender Advancement.

There has been achievements in implementing the National Plan of Action.

- The Government has passed two laws.
  - Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act of 1998 and the Land Law Act of 1999 and Village Land Act of 1999.

The first Law protects women, girls and children from sexual harassment and abuse.

The last two laws repeal and replaces previous legislations on land matters thus enabling women to enjoy equal rights with men in ownership and to land.

- The situation of women and girls is much better now than it was in 1995.

This is because all women enjoy the benefits equally. All women utilize the national facilities without discrimination.

- The goals of Gender Equality and advancement of women are being pursued equally with other public policy goals. They all follow the same procedures of policy formulation and implementation within Government Machinery.
- The Government of Tanzania short listed the following critical areas of concern out of twelve areas specified in Beijing in 1995. These areas of concern include the following:-
  - i. Enhancement of women's legal capacity.
  - ii. Economic empowerment and poverty eradication.
  - iii. Women's empowerment in decision – making.
  - iv. Enhancement of women's opportunities in Education, Training and Employment.
  - v. Institutional capacity building and Gender Mainstreaming.
  - vi. Advocacy for women and Gender Advancement.
- Mainstreaming Gender has been successful in Parliament where 16% of Parliamentarians are women. In Ministry of Community Development, Women Affairs and Children, The Cabinet Office and Manpower Development Ministry are the

sectors with substantial achievements in mainstreaming gender. Other sectors are yet to implement gender mainstreaming as required.

The Constitution guarantees 15% of all seats in Parliament since 1995. It is being reviewed and different women forums have already demanded an increase in the share to 30%.

There is also a Women Parliamentary Pressure Group to advocate and lobby for intergration of issues of concern to women in various in the legislative processes.

- There has been considerable attention to gender equality and advancement of women since 1995. The Government works closely with NGOs and a policy on NGOs is being developed. Many women NGOs have been established since 1995 including the Women Media Association and the Women Lawyers Association of Tanzania. These are just two among many in the list. The public is more informed about women issues than before and is more supportive of women advancement than before.
- The global changes have had negative effects on women. Retrenchments from the Civil Service had made women redundant without preparations prior to the lay offs. The foreign debt repayment has totally disrupted social services and women have suffered more than men. The unfair trade terms of in world markets have made women work harder with lesser incomes while at the same time they have been forced to pay for the services which previously were being subsidised by the government.

The global financial crisis has had impact on the level of food and nutrition in families and therefore affecting women and girls in the country.

## Part Two

### **FINANCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES**

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Ministry of Community Development Women Affairs and Children has introduced special mechanisms for financing women in the country.

There is a Women Development Fund (WDF) in the Ministry of Community Development Women Affairs and Children which is totally funded by the Treasury every year. The fund which was established in 1994 was further strengthened after Beijing (1995) providing more funds on credit terms to small groups of women and individuals in both urban and village levels. The loans are payable with some interest.

There is also another fund for women under an independent institution in the Ministry of Community Development Women Affairs and Children. This facility known as Credit for Women (CREW – Tanzania), is donor funded and operates in two regions only. There are several other funds for women funded by both the government, donors and non-governmental organisations. Some of these organisations include the Equal Opportunities for All Trust Fund and Pride Tanzania, National Income generation programme, Care Tanzania, Oxfam, to name but a few.

On global conferences co-ordination, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations is the link Ministry to sectoral Ministries.

With regard to NGOs, the United Republic of Tanzania Government collaborates with registered organisations at all levels and parameters of development including women advancement. It is important to observe here that the introduction of the Multiparty democracy in Tanzania created a more conducive environment for the established of civil organisations. Numerous women NGOs and CBOs have been established by women themselves to enable them articulate issues that are of women interest. These NGOs address both economic, social and political issues.

### Part Three

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

### **A. Innovative Policies, Programmes, Projects and good Practices**

The Tanzania Government changed from the Women in Development (WID) to Gender and Development (GAD) policy to ensure that both men and women work together for their own development. However emphasis is on women considering that they have special needs as producers and reproducers.

The constitution provides for a 15% share as a guarantee for women representation in Parliament and Tanzania Parliament has 16% women. It is under review and there are demands from women groups already that the guarantee be raised to 30% and be stated in the new constitution. No other group has challenged this proposal so far.

The position of women in leadership has also increased. There are more women in local councils now than before 1995, there are more women District Commissioners now in Tanzania than before 1995, and

even at both regional and national levels the number of women leaders has increased since Beijing. No doubt the government intends to include more women in senior positions. There is a project under British Council and local NGOs to spearhead this commitment.

There are other projects including the project on Strengthening National Mechanism for Gender Capacity Building, Strengthening of National Mechanism for Donor Coordination; Research project on all forms of discriminatory customary practices i.e. FGM and Early marriage and the Law Reform Commission to review existing laws that contain provisions which discriminate against women in Tanzania.

#### B. Obstacles encountered

The main obstacle in the implementation of national plans of action is limited Resources. All activities scheduled need resources both human material and financial.

The list of activities is long spread under the four critical areas of concern to Tanzania. Government resources are meagre and donor support has dropped critically. Foreign debt is consuming about 40% of annual government budget curtailing good plans of government to improve the wellbeing of women and public in general.

With more education and more campaigns the strong tradition and customs slowly disintegrate although this will take time.

#### C. Commitments to further action and initiatives

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms its commitments to the Beijing Platform for Action and the National Sub-Programme for the women and Gender Advancement.

The government of Tanzania is reviewing the Constitution and women have been active in proposing those crucial areas of concern that they want to be included in the new constitution. The process is still continuing and it is the hope of the government that the new constitution will contain provisions that are gender sensitive, giving women more opportunities to participate in the public life of the society.

Other laws which are still being reviewed include the Law of Marriage Act of 1971 and others with the view to reformulation to eradicate discrimination. As the government and coalition members improve the education and capacity for women more women will be promoted to higher levels in politics and administrative positions.

What is of crucial importance also is to follow-up the implementation of agreed critical issues in a vast country like Tanzania given the meagre resources in government budget.

Further actions and initiatives to be taken would include campaigns throughout the country on the revised and/or amended or newly enacted laws and other opportunities for women. Strengthen co-ordination of flow of information throughout the country to monitor implementation of laws against discrimination and violence against women. These actions would provide the Government with a better platform for advocacy and remedial actions for the next millennium.

The vision for women's advancement and equality for women in the next millennium will be based on the constitution currently under review, the economic position of the country at that material time and sustainable democracy in the country.

## ANNEX 1

Critical Areas 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/ initiative	Other
I. Women and Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enactment of Land Law Act and Village Land Act of 1999</li> <li>▪ Women development Funds for sol loans.</li> <li>▪ Poverty eradication department in the Vice - President's Office.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Process to review laws takes long time and is costly.</li> <li>▪ Government budget is very meagre and not enough for needs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More programmes are already planned and waiting for funding.</li> <li>▪ Involvement of more donors, NGOs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Unfairness in the current International Trade continues to hinder progress in poverty eradication.</li> <li>▪ Further negotiation is necessary.</li> </ul>
II. Education and Training of women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Priority in Education for girls</li> <li>▪ Special training programme for women (TFTW).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education and Training is expensive and government budget can not manage.</li> <li>▪ Involvement of Donors and recipients helps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government is committed to enhance education for girls.</li> <li>▪ Further training programmes planned for women in working positions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More training for women in and outside the country with the support of donors.</li> </ul>
III. Women and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government policy to facilitate pregnant and nursing mothers free or with minimal charges.</li> <li>▪ Provision of reproductive health services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remote areas are difficult to reach in wet seasons.</li> <li>▪ Government budget very small to provide free health services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Government involve more private services.</li> <li>▪ Mobilisation to people to service roads for all weather service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthening of health services in rural areas and paid services.</li> </ul>



<p>IV. Violence against women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government Policy and Constitutional right to safety law Rwanda and Burundi</li> <li>Severe punishment under the law.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Even with severe punishment since 1998 offenders still prevail at same magnitude.</li> <li>It is not enough to have laws.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further Education and Campaigns are needed.</li> <li>Enhance civilization to reduce crime.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic education to general public and level of development may provide opportunity to reduce crime.</li> </ul>
<p>V. Women and Armed Conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The neighbours of Rwanda and Burundi and Republic of Congo force women to seek refuge in Tanzania.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tanzania hosts thousands of refugees from neighbours and is difficult to provide services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wars must stop. Peace must prevail and provide opportunity for women to work with others to stop wars around.</li> <li>The Government and NGO to educate women throughout the country of their rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More training in new technology for women.</li> <li>Development of appropriate technologies for women.</li> </ul>
<p>VI. Women and Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women Constitute 80% of agriculture labour resource and produce 60% of food requirements.</li> <li>The Land Act (1999) gives rights of ownership of land to women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major obstacles is to educate all women of their rights to resources.</li> <li>Need to campaigns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are requests in the Constitution reform to raise the 15% guarantee to 30% or more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are plans to increase the number of women in decision making position in government.</li> </ul>
<p>VII. Women in power and decision-making.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constitution provides 15% guarantee of seats in Parliament.</li> <li>The number of women in decision making positions have increased since 1995.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retrenchment of workers in public sector affects women too.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an national commission for the advancement of woman.</li> <li>Introduce chapter on women in the new Constitution of Tanzania.</li> </ul>	
<p>VIII. Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a full Ministry and Cabinet position for that purpose.</li> <li>There is a national sub-programme for women's and gender advancement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major obstacles is funding the targeted programmes.</li> <li>Involvement of NGOs helps substantially.</li> </ul>		

IX. Human rights of women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signatory CEDAW and other International Human Rights Accords.</li> <li>Constitution of Tanzania guarantees human rights of women and men.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most women do not know yet the parameters available to them as human rights.</li> <li>There are requests to have a women's charter in the Constitution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More civic and legal education is necessary to educate women on their rights.</li> </ul>	
X. Women and the media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) and NGO.</li> <li>Government collaborates with TAMWA for the advancement of women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TAMWA is dependent on donors for funding and no government subscription.</li> <li>There are more commitments than resources available.</li> <li>There is already too much pressure on the land.</li> <li>Destruction of the environment is imminent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government intends to provide more assistance to women media.</li> <li>Women issues are raised in media everyday without fear or favour.</li> </ul>	
XI. Women and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women depend on the environment they live in. They depend on it and they conserve it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some traditions hinder progress in education for girls.</li> <li>Family poverty sometimes is a problem to education for girls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is need to develop alternative source of energy for domestic use.</li> <li>More resources are required from government and others.</li> </ul>	
XII. The girl child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government policy to strengthen education for children and girls in particular.</li> <li>More girls to enter secondary education.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government is committed to give more opportunities to women and girls as a new strategy for the advancement of women.</li> </ul>	