

# APPENDIX

## Appendix

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals are mutually supporting processes. CEDAW and the Beijing Platform are the two key international gender equality and women's rights documents.

### A. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CEDAW was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. By 2 Nov 2006, 185 countries—over 90 percent of the United Nations—were party to the Convention. States Parties to the Convention make a serious commitment to eliminate discrimination against women and to guarantee women's rights.

#### Box 6. States Parties' Commitments under CEDAW

By accepting the Convention, States commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms, including to:

- incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, and abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt new laws that prohibit discrimination against women;
- establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination;
- ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises.

States Parties to the Convention are required to submit an initial baseline country report on the situation of women to the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, followed by reports every four years that show progress and indicate which actions will be taken during the following four years. These reports are subject to detailed public scrutiny by the Committee, which issues comments to which States Parties then respond.

Described as an international bill of rights for women, CEDAW establishes women's human rights in 16 substantive articles and in the general recommendations issued from time to time by the Committee. Article 1 defines two kinds of discrimination against women and shows that two different strategies, or a combination of both, may be needed to achieve gender equality. De jure or formal discrimination, such as laws that prevent, in ways that do not apply to men, women from owning property or obtaining credit, requires legal and institutional reforms to remove discriminatory provisions. De facto discrimination that results in differential outcomes between women and men, such as lower levels of literacy or education for women than men due to lower parental priority for education for girls, may require actions to raise awareness and change attitudes, or special programmes targeting women and girls.

**Box 7. CEDAW Substantive Articles**

Article 1: Discrimination	Defines discrimination against women as ‘any distinction, exclusion or restriction . . . on the basis of sex which has the effect . . . of impairing . . . the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, . . . on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights. . .’
Article 2: Policy Measures	Take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women
Article 3: Basic human rights	Guarantee women the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men
Article 4: Special Measures	Temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered as discrimination
Article 5: Sex Role Stereotyping	Eliminate prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women
Article 6: Prostitution	Suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.
Article 7: Political and Public Life	Eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country
Article 8: Representation	Ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without discrimination, the opportunity to represent their governments at the international level and to work in international organizations
Article 9: Nationality	Grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality.
Article 10: Education	Ensure women equal rights with men in the field of education
Article 11: Employment	Eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment
Article 12: Health	Eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care
Article 13: Economic and Social Benefits	Eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life
Article 14: Rural Women	Take into account the problems faced by rural women and the significant roles they play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized economy.
Article 15: Law	Accord to women equality with men before the law
Article 16: Marriage and Family Life	Eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations.

General Recommendations issued from time to time by the Committee supplement the original 16 substantive articles, while some cover administrative matters. General Recommendations cover some issues such as violence against women that were not covered by the original articles; address emerging issues such as HIV/AIDS; or extend and update existing articles. The later General Recommendations, such as Nos. 23, 24 and 25, are longer with more analysis, and more detailed recommendations, making them a valuable resource for engendering the MDGs.

#### Box 8. Selected CEDAW General Recommendations

No. 5	1988	Temporary special measures, affirmative action, preferential treatment and quotas, in education, economy, politics and employment
No. 6	1988	Effective national machinery to advise on the impact on women or policies and monitor the situation of women
No. 8	1988	Women to represent their government equally with men at international level and work in international organizations
No. 9	1998	Statistical data on women to be presented separately for women and men
No. 12	1989	Violence against women – States Parties to protect women against violence in the family, at work or in social life
No. 13	1989	Equal pay for work of equal value
No. 14	1990	Female circumcision
No. 15	1990	Avoid discrimination against women in prevention and control of AIDS
No. 16	1991	Unpaid women workers in rural and urban family enterprises
No. 17	1991	Measurement and quantification of unpaid domestic work of women and its recognition in the gross national product
No. 18	1991	Disabled women
No. 19	1992	Violence against women is a violation of women's human rights
No. 20	1992	Reservations to the Convention
No. 21	1994	Equality in marriage and family relations, including ownership of marital property and inheritance
No. 23	1997	Eliminate discrimination in political and public life, right to vote, participate in policy formulation and in NGOs
No. 24	1999	Women and health
No. 25	2004	Definition and explanation of temporary special measures.

## B. Beijing Platform for Action

The Beijing Platform for Action was the outcome document from the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform were signed by representatives of 189 Governments.

Based on input from women's groups through the NGO Forum and from governments participating in the Conference, the Platform identified 12 critical areas of special concern to women.

### Box 9. The Beijing Platform 12 Critical Areas of Concern

1. Women and poverty—the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women
2. Education and training of women—inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training
3. Women and health—inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services
4. Violence against women
5. Women and armed conflict—the effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those under foreign occupation
6. Women and the economy—inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources
7. Women in power and decision-making—inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels
8. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women—insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women
9. Human rights of women—lack of respect for and inadequate protection and fulfilment of the human rights of women
10. Women and the media—stereotyping of women and inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media
11. Women and the environment—gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment
12. The girl child—persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child.

Each of the critical areas of concern:

- diagnoses the specific problems for women in the area;
- proposes strategic objectives and concrete actions;
- identifies which actions are to be taken by specific actors in order to achieve the objectives.

The objectives and actions are 'interlinked, of high priority and mutually reinforcing'. The Platform for Action is intended to improve the situation of all women, who often face similar barriers. However, it gives special attention to poor women, rural women, and the most disadvantaged women, including those facing discrimination due to 'race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion or disability, because they are indigenous or of other status'.

Like CEDAW, the Platform recognizes the barriers some or specific groups of women face due to their family status, particularly if they are single parents; and to their socio-economic status, including living in rural, isolated or impoverished areas. Singled out for special attention are refugee women, internally displaced women, immigrant and migrant women and women migrant workers, and those affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women.

The General Recommendations and Country Reports to the CEDAW Committee, and the Beijing Platform's 12 Critical Areas of Concern provide gender analysis and practical inputs for a gender-responsive rights-based approach to the MDGs.

### C. Common Concerns of the MDGs, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform

The extent to which gender and women's rights are dimensions of each of the MDGs is evident from a comparison of the eight goals with the focus of the substantive articles of CEDAW and the 12 critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform. If the CEDAW General Recommendations were included, the cross-cutting nature of gender in all eight goals would be even stronger.

**Box 10. Common Concerns of the MDGs, CEDAW and Beijing Platform**

MDG Goals	Related CEDAW Articles	Related Critical Area of Concern
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	3. Guarantee of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, including from hunger 11. Employment 14. Rural women	A. Women and poverty – the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women F. Women and the economy – inequality in economic structures, policies, productive activities and access to resources
2. Achieve universal primary education	10. Education 16. Marriage and family life	L. The girl child – persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child B. Education and training of women – inequalities, inadequacies and unequal access to education and training
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	7. Political and public life 8. Representation 10. Education 11. Employment	B. Education and training of women F. Women and the economy G. Women in power and decision-making – inequality between women and men in power and decision-making at all levels

**Box 10. Common Concerns of the MDGs, CEDAW and Beijing Platform**

4. Reduce child mortality	12. Health	C. Women and health – inequalities, inadequacies and unequal access to health care and related services
5. Improve maternal health	12. Health	C. Women and health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	12. Health	C. Women and health
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	7. Political and public life 14. Rural women	K. Women and the environment – inequalities in management of natural resources and safeguarding the environment
8. Develop a global partnership for development	7. Political and public life 8. Representation	F. Women and the economy G. Women in power and decision-making

*CEDAW Articles 1 (Discrimination), 2 (Policy measures), 4 (Special measures) and 5 (Sex role stereotyping and prejudice) are relevant to all MDGs*

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