

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION

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

In the Dominican Republic, the last decade and the current one characterized by new and increased interest on the part of civil society and the State in promoting gender equality and guaranteeing citizenship for women.

The event, the Fourth World Conference on Women, "Action for Equal Development and Peace", held in Beijing in September 1995, highlighted the need to achieve gender equity and instruments to guarantee the effectiveness of the promises made at the conference.

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oriented to achieving gender equality and the Department for the Advancement of Women.

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The Platform for Action for the Advancement of Dominican Women is the result of a broad process of consultation with both public sectors and civil society, involving an in-depth diagnosis of the situation of Dominican women and reaching a consensus regarding the identification of the principal problems of Dominican women and the necessary corrective measures. This document outlines the commitment assumed by the Dominican Republic at the Fourth World Conference.

The official gender policy embodied in this document is promotion of the integration of women in development and recognition of their rights to full citizenship within the context of sustained, equitable and democratic development. The document proclaims the global strategies of concertation, and community participation, strengthening of institutions and education.

Emphasis is placed on the empowerment of women through their participation in public life, strengthening of mechanisms for the advancement of women, and modernization and adaptation of the legal system. Efforts are also concentrated on the elimination of poverty through the integration of women into

macroeconomic and social policies, equality of access to employment, strengthening of productive resources, assistance focused on groups of women in extreme poverty and participation of women in the preservation of natural resources and the environment.

culture and communication media, improving the treatment of women in the media, health issues and promotion of total health and the prevention of all forms of violence against women. National policy in gender issues reflects the following platform: In many of the areas mentioned above, there have been significant achievements or breakthroughs in the

The document also deals with education with emphasis on raising education standards for women in textbooks, promotion of cultural image that does not discriminate and violence are dealt with through prevention, punishment and elimination. In general, the main areas dealt with in

**Dominican Republic
Empowerment of Women**

involved in party politics. The Dominican Republic now has a woman for president, which would have been unthinkable a few years ago. The reorganized Supreme Court of Justice has 15 members, there had only been one woman member of the Supreme Court. A measure allocating to women 25 per cent of the political

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engaged in a broad process of modernization of the legal system. In recent years, an important process of legal system has taken place in the Dominican Republic. The latest legislative changes to ensure that women are the following:

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The latest legislative changes to ensure that women are the following:

1. Law 24-97 on violence, discrimination and desertion of the family classifies and prescribes penalties for violence against women and domestic and intra-family abuse, sexual assaults, procuring and trafficking in women.

2. Law 55-97 amending the Agrarian Reform Act establishes the principle of equality in all benefits, obligations and legal proceedings concerning agrarian

issues.

de for the Protection of Children and Adolescents; prescribes penalties for violence and sexual assaults against

Law 14-97 prescribes penalties for violence against family member.

ing the Labour Code, proclaims the equal rights of men and women workers.

Law 255 proclaims equal rights of men and women in labor.

in macroeconomic and social policy through integration

with equal access to employment.

The above-mentioned

women in situations of extreme poverty in the subject

agencies have

the Agrarian Reform Act and other activities undertaken in cooperation with other government sectors.

The Dominican Republic also has the "Worthy Community" Plan geared to combating extreme poverty and giving special attention to women (female heads of household, single mothers, etc.).

In recent years, attention has been focused on health and violence. In pursuance of Law 24-97, pilot plans for specific sectors have been implemented such as the plan for information on the subject of non-violence.

Among the aspects mentioned, the greatest success has been achieved in:

Participation of women in public life, strengthening of mechanisms for

should be emphasized. Attitudes, information media and other social sectors

the efforts made by specific plans such as the plan for information on the subject of non-violence

of women have an impact on government units which

near behind in this regard. In the Dominican Republic, the traditionally lagging

and academic circles have played a leading role in

forefront of public opinion.

that priority has been given to the subject of non-violence

women's advancement in other areas of public policy, it

of gender equality

can be said that in recent years these objectives have received significant attention.

World events, particularly in the financial arena, have affected the lives of women and girls in several ways: by exacerbating poverty, encouraging migrations both to urban areas and abroad, limiting access to services and drawing more women into the informal sector of the economy.

In order to respond to this situation, the Dominican Government has adopted

which reference was made in the governing...
is not possible to identify exactly how much of the national budget is...
equality and women's advancement, because the allocations for the...
industries and private institutions appear as global items...
only to indicate the funds allocated to the Department for the...
agency responsible for women's...

CONDICIONADO	US\$ 000.000
1.300.000.000	822.900.000
1.200.000.000	620.000.000
1.000.000.000	652.495.000
1.000.000.000	124.638.000
National donations	
2.728.400.000	1.015.025.000
3.381.000.000	1.018.128.000

which has restricted

As can be seen, the budget allocation is very low for the implementation of the Platform in all its aspects.

Dominican Republic
and strengthening of
for women's advancement, both in its official activities and through
mental organizations and civil society. In addition to adopting
ve measures, it has adopted national and international arrangements and
ts to guarantee their effectiveness and to eliminate the

3 (a) Following the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the Dominican Republic has given special attention to the creation, encouragement and strengthening of mechanisms for women's advancement, both in its official activities and through non-governmental organizations and civil society. In addition to adopting legislative measures, it has adopted national and international arrangements and legislative measures to guarantee their effectiveness and to eliminate the marginalization and discrimination still affecting women, guarantee the integration of women in development, promote the defence of their economic, social, civil, political and cultural rights and the effective participation of women in the exercise of power and in decision-making.

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The first action of this nature was the creation by Executive Decree No. 170 of 1995 of the National Committee for Monitoring the National Plan of Action for Women of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which is chaired by the Director-General of the Advancement of Women and composed, among others, of the heads of

Technical Secretariat of the Office of the President, the Ministries of Foreign Relations, Education and Culture, Agriculture, Public Health, and Attorney

Secretary of the Evangelical Church, the Coordinator of Research Centre for Feminine Action, and Women's

Domingo, the Executive NGOs for Women's Issues Development:

to follow up and monitor the National Plan of Action for Equality, which embodies the main actions and measures of the national, regional and international connection with the

The Committee will Equality, Development and the Dominican Government barriers of discrimination by the year 2001, a international commitments assumed by the country Conference.

draft bill which would to a Ministry. This new participation in State forums where decisions are taken and

The Dominican Congress is currently study elevate the Department for the Advancement of greater scope power exercis

In the legislative area, efforts are being taken to amend codes and special laws which discriminate against women and to publicize, through the various media, the changes in benefit to women. Women are being urged to avail themselves of the legal instruments which protect their rights.

In 1995, the Senate of the Republic decided unanimously to appoint the "Honorary Committee of Women Advisers to the Senate", which is composed of women experts on gender issues drawn from the different political parties, women legislators, jurists, representatives of the women's movement, and the Department for the Advancement of Women. This advisory committee to the Senate of the Republic has played an important role in the process of amending and adopting codes, laws and measures aimed at bringing about changes in the

by Law 505 of 21 June 1995, the Dominican Government ratified the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence Against Women. This represented a very significant achievement, since our legal framework presented major lacunae in terms of the treatment and management of violence against women.

Ratification of this Convention has proved highly instrumental in amending Dominican laws to respond to the commitments which the Convention entails for

Law 24-97 of 28 January 1997, which amended the Criminal Code, the Code of Family and Adolescents, the Code of Children and Adolescent Family. This Law classifies and prescribes penalties for sexual assaults, prescribes penalties for procuring and trafficking in women, defines and prescribes

ion. Information is given below on some of

prescribes penalties for discriminating against
the amended articles.

the Dominican Government established the
National Commission for the Prevention and Repression of Intra-family Violence

In 1998, by Decree No. 423
National Commission for the Prevention and Repression of Intra-family Violence

of the prevention
of persons
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the Reform and
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District, the
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with the goal of formulating plans and engaging in activities
of intra-family violence and for the assistance and rehabilitation
affected by it. The Commission is composed of the Attorney
Republic, the Coordinator of the Office of the Commissioner
Modernization of Public Health and Social Welfare, represented
National Police, the Attorney-General's Office in the National
Department of Community Development, the Department for the

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of San Francisco de Macoris, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Santiago, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Sánchez Ramírez, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Puerto Plata, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of La Vega, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Española, established in 1996.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of María Trinidad Sánchez, established in 1997.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of San José, established in 1998.

Monce Plata, established in 1998. Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of San José, established in 1998.

Romana, established in 1998. Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Romana, established in 1998.

through these Offices, The National Plan for Gender Equity is implemented through the various offices and initiatives of the Department for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing agreements.

As was done for the Beijing Conference, national commissions were established to follow up the following summit meetings: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; World Summit for Social Development; World Summit for Children and World Food Summit.

(b) The National Office for the Follow-Up of Global Conferences was established on 25 March 1991, by Decree No. 122-91, to coordinate the various follow-up efforts to global conferences.

Through the Coordinator of Non-Governmental Organizations, through the Coordinator of NGOs for Women's Issues, the Cibao Women's Coordinator, various topical and sectoral networks and in each organization, have drawn up national, regional and local plans based on the agreements in the Beijing Platform for Action, which have been implemented since 1995.

The principal achievements of these organizations include: their contribution to the overhaul of Dominican legislation; follow-up and promotion of legislation adopted for the benefit of women; their contribution to the preparation of the draft bill on the upgrading of the Department for the Advancement of Women; their support for the highlighting of violence as a problem of human rights; the development of educational programmes to publicize women and gender issues; their contribution to the development of the training and empowerment of national leaders in the political arena and their influence on public policies ensuring a gender perspective.

The non-governmental organisations participate in national and topical meetings organized by DGPM.