South African WOMEN 2015: TOWARDS 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM

A PROPOSAL

The Beijing Platform for Action recommends the creation of National Observatories on the advancement of women in each country. A women’s rights observatory can be defined as a live data base which will enable learning, advocacy, gender mainstreaming as well as effective monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives from a gender/women’s rights perspective. It is envisaged that Project 2015 will track progress and consolidate data on women’s rights and the status of women in South Africa thereby providing an important resource for women’s organisations, researchers as well as policy makers.

South Africa prides itself as having signed and entered into the Beijing Declaration and its Platform of Action without reservation. In the Beijing Declaration, the participating governments state their conviction that “it is essential to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually enforcing gender sensitive policies and programmes including development policies and programmes at all levels that will foster the empowerment and advancement of women.”

The overall objective of South African Women 2015: Towards 20 years of Freedom is to provide an account of 20 years of Freedom for women in South Africa. Specifically the project aims to:

- Serve as a comprehensive source of data on research findings and resources, institutions, emerging information, developments and events on women’s rights in South Africa;
- Track and report on progress South Africa is making in the area of women’s human rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment;
- Provide a directory of international and regional commitments on gender equality and women’s rights South Africa is party to;
- Provide a database of national legislation pertaining to gender and women’s rights as well as a databank of domestic court cases upholding women’s rights.

In addition to the overview of 20 years of Freedom Project 2015’s information gathering and analysis will focus on six thematic areas, based on the outcome of the national gender machinery’s evaluation of 5 years of the Beijing Platform of Action in South Africa in the OSW report The Beijing Platform of Action; South Africa’s First Progress Report. The six thematic areas are the following: Women and Poverty; Violence against Women and Children; Education and Training; Women in Political and Decision making Positions; and Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women.

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1 UNECA, African Centre for Gender and Development: Strategies to Enhance the Africa Women’s Rights Observatory
2 UNDPI, The Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action, pg 8 para 18
“What is measured, counts.” This recognition, and the determination to make women and women’s work count, underpins the commitments made by the global community including in the Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action. The Beijing Platform outlined 12 critical areas of concern for the global community to focus on in order to achieve for women and men, its vision of “Equality, Development and Peace. Since then (1995) new commitments have been entered to which provide specific goals, targets and timeframes for their attainment. Key amongst these are the eight Millennium Development Goals entered into by 186 world governments in Monte Rey, Mexico in the year 2000.

At the national level, the South African government has embraced several international instruments on women. Further, it has been in the forefront of crafting and entering into continental and regional instruments for women’s empowerment and gender equality including the Constituent Act of the African Union, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women, The Solemn Declaration of AU Heads of State on Gender Equality and the African Women’s Platform at the continental level, and the Southern African Development Community’s (SADC) Protocol on Gender Equality at the regional level.

Gender Equality is entrenched in the South African Constitution, Act 108 of 1996. Importantly, in his first inauguration address, President Nelson Mandela asserted that the improvement of the quality of life and status of women would be a key indicator in assessing the success of the new democracy. Since 1994, the South African State has been engaged in a number of development initiatives including the Reconstruction and Development Plan (RDP) and Growth, Employment and Retribution (GEAR). Given the national commitments on women’s empowerment and gender equality, the expectation has been that women would be full and equal participants in all aspects of society as this would enable the attainment of the national goal of “a better life for all.” This view is consistent with the dominant development discourse and is reflected the observation in the 1995 UN Human Development Report that “human development if not engendered is endangered” as well as the assertion in the World Bank 2001 study Engendering Development which posits that “on one hand poverty exacerbates gender disparities, whilst on the other hand gender disparities hinder development.”

The concept of development itself has been a contested one for gender activists and feminists’ scholars. For instance, some feminist scholars had embraced the ‘integration of women in development paradigm’ posited by Ester Boserup in her 1970 study which pointed to the invisibility of women’s contribution to development. In that study Boserup argued that women have been marginalized from the development process both absolutely and relatively. By absolute marginalization Boserup referred to women’s displacement from their traditional roles and responsibilities. By relative marginalization Boserup referred to the fact that women were not taken into account explicitly in development efforts.

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3 Boserup E, Women’s Role in Economic Development
and consequently they were not in a position to enjoy the presumed benefits of development in equal terms with men. From the very beginning however women from the South challenged the WID paradigm, which they posited, failed to problematise modernization theory, the dominant development discourse of the time. Another criticism they leveled at the WID paradigm was that women’s integration in the development process subjected them (women) to subordination and exploitation. In addition, they highlight the failure of the WID paradigm to draw attention to women’s unpaid care work and the extent to which capitalist accumulation is achieved at the back of women’s subsistence production.

Feminist scholars continue to debate and differ on the issue of women’s integration into development. On one hand earlier Marxist Feminists displayed an extreme antipathy for official agencies of development and governments, accusing them of ‘capitalist patriarchy and blaming them for the failures of development enterprises. One of the proponents of this school of thought was Margaret Mies who advocated militant disengagement with official development efforts. On the other hand other strands of feminism, for example the gender relations approach, have advanced more nuanced approaches to state bureaucracies and development agencies. Instead of militant disengagement (proposed by Mies) they advocate engagement with a view to effect transformation. They advocate constructive ‘engagement through research, advocacy and political strategies that challenge the assumptions of neutrality which permeate the goals, objectives, rules and practices of influential developmental agencies and help to disguise the partial nature of their vision of development.”

The gender relations proponents advocate engagement with development agencies and state bureaucracies in the pursuit of women’s empowerment and gender equality goals. Such an engagement necessitates skilled interventions by gender practitioners and feminists capable of working out alternative visions of development by “constantly monitoring and evaluating the assumptions, procedures and outcomes of all policies and programmes and working out who gains and who loses in the different processes of development and why.” Analytically part of the usefulness of the gender relations approach is that it expands the analysis beyond a focus solely on women. Proponents of this approach further argue that focusing attention solely on women tends to imply that the problem- and therefore the solution should be confined to women. Instead, the social relations approach emphasises that gender is not the only form of inequality in the lives of women and men. While gender is always present, it is never present in pure form. ‘It is always interwoven with other social inequalities, such as class and race, and has to be analysed through a holistic framework if the concrete conditions of life of women and men are to be understood.”

The focus on the concrete conditions of women and men leads the social relations approach to suggest that the feminist agenda cannot afford to ignore State parties and the official agencies of development agencies. As Kabeer observes “Women the world over face a critical shortage of resources to meet their own and their families’ needs, and the official agencies remain powerful mechanisms of resource allocation, potentially capable of meeting or exacerbating this deprivation.” The logic of the gender relations approach gives gravitas to the WID endeavor of making women “visible” to policy makers through highlighting the contradiction between the expressed policy goal of efficiency and the neglect of women's productive role in practice. Consequently an elaborate architecture of

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4 Naila Kabeer 1991, pg 67
5 Kabeer ibid quoting Sen and Crown 1985
6 Ibid pg 62
international instruments and commitments to women’s empowerment and the realisation of gender equality goals has been established. The challenge is in translating the commitments into practice.

The Beijing Platform elaborates the comprehensive machinery which has to be in place at national level to enable governments to implement the provisions of the BPA thereby achieving the obligation towards the attainment of women’s empowerment and gender equality role. Strategic Objective H of the BPA obligates state parties to the BPA to have in place strong national gender machineries, allocate the responsibility and accountability for gender mainstreaming at the highest level of government, integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public polices, programmes and projects and to generate and disseminate gender disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.

The experience at national level has been that the rhetoric (political will) of policy makers is seldom, if ever translated into administrative will. Over time, even with the assertions by UN members states that they have integrated women’s development goals in their national development initiatives and that they have the adopted gender mainstreaming strategies at national level, gender inequalities remain persistent and pervasive. In the case of South Africa, for instance, women continue to be reflected negatively on every development indicator. Women empowerment goals are not incorporated into the mainstream national development strategies. As the OSW Gender Audit of 1998 points out, “everyone is responsible for gender mainstreaming, no one is accountable”

The year 2015 will mark the end of two decades of the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action. Further, in the year 2015, South Africans will have lived in a post apartheid democratic dispensation for 20 years. In this regard, the period approaching two decades of freedom provides an important window in which to assess how South African women have experienced 20 years of freedom. Given that the ‘improvement in the lived reality of South African women’ was posited as the measure (indicator) of the success of the South African democracy, such an assessment is core to any evaluation of South Africa’s democracy. The challenge for such an evaluation however is the absence of a comprehensive baseline of national agreements on women’s empowerment and gender equality, as well as commonly accepted core data against which specific trends can be measured and tracked over time.

The experience gained in compiling the periodic reports to the international community, including the five yearly reports to the UN Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) on the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action as well as the reports to the AU on the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the SADC on the Protocol on Gender Equality, has highlighted the challenges encountered when reporting on International Women’s Instruments. Each reporting process is separate from the day to day reporting processes of government, and is conducted on an adhoc basis. That is, despite the national strategy of gender mainstreaming, and the obligations emanating from Article 8 of the Beijing Platform which requires member states to provide sex and gender disaggregated data, such information is not collated as part of official data by Statistics South Africa, the only national institution established to collect official data. Consequently each report compilation process is carried out as a once off process. Conversely, whilst sex disaggregated data is referenced in

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7 OSW; The Presidency 1998 Gender Audit 1998
8 The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa was adopted by African Heads of State in Maputo, Mozambique in 2003
9 Until the adoption of the SADC Gender Protocol, the SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender had 2 reporting instruments, The SADC Gender and Development Declaration and its Addendum on the Eradication and Prevention of Violence Against Women
mainstream national reports such as the MDG report for instance and the two National Synthesis Reports [Towards A Ten Year Review\textsuperscript{10} and Towards a Fifteen Year Review\textsuperscript{11}] compiled by the Policy Coordination and Advisory Unit (PCAS), no gender analysis is offered in these reports. In part this is a result of the absence of gender indicators in the government wide monitoring and evaluation framework developed by the Policy Coordination Unit (PCAS) in the Presidency.

The problem is that no comprehensive audit has been undertaken at a national level which reflects national commitments on women’s empowerment and gender equality, nor is there a composite record of reporting obligations. In practice different government departments are responsible for reporting on compliance in implementing the provisions of agreements which relate to their departments’ core functions, there is no standard with regard to reporting on the gender dimensions of such agreements. This results in numerous fragmented reporting processes, but no composite or identifiable repository of information documenting the situation of women in South Africa, either at the level of government or civil society organisations.

At the continental level, the Africa Center for Gender and Development at the UN Economic Commission on Africa (UNECA) has developed the Africa Gender Development Index (AGDI) at the request of AU member states, in order to enable them to harmonise their reporting obligations on women’s empowerment and gender equality. South Africa as a country supported the principle of harmonizing the reporting infrastructure on women’s empowerment and participated in a pilot of the AGDI. Based on the lessons which have emerged from the AGDI pilots, the UN has proceeded to table a paper entitled “Strategies to Enhance the African Women’s Observatory” at the Seventh Session of the Committee on Women and Development held between 17\textsuperscript{th} to 20\textsuperscript{th} May in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

However the ability to input to a continental repository of information presupposes the existence at national level of an effective reporting infrastructure, capable of providing information for compliance reports on women specific international and continental instruments such as CEDAW and the BPA as well as the mainstream instruments such as NEPAD and the Abuja Declaration on HIV and AIDS, Tuberculosis and other Related Diseases. The pilot phase of the AGDI provided the country with a comprehensive compliance monitoring tool and mirrored its application for government departments and agencies including Stats SA; however the implementation of the tool in the pilot phase was carried out by independent researchers engaged by UNECA for that purpose. Consequently no follow up action was carried out at the national level in order to institutionalize the tool within government and thereby ensure its ongoing implementation.

An Audit carried out by the Presidency (1998) of institutional mechanisms at in place in government to enable gender mainstreaming points to the lack of capacity for monitoring and evaluation of government programmes and the absence of a functional information management system at government level. The gender machinery which was put in place in South Africa, accorded specific mandates for the monitoring of compliance with gender equality goals to the executive through the OSW, the legislature through the Joint Monitoring Committee, Section 9 institutions through the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE), and civil society women’s organisations. However, despite the formulation of a comprehensive coordination framework outlined in the National Policy Framework on Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality (2000), the various components of the South African gender machinery were never able or enabled to carry out their monitoring function. In addition, post 1994 the civil society umbrella body for

\textsuperscript{10} The Presidency 2003
\textsuperscript{11} The Presidency 2008
women, the Women’s National Coalition collapsed, thus there was no longer a coalition of civil society institutions in place, mandated with the task of monitoring compliance with national women’s empowerment and gender equality goals.

The key objective of Project 2015 is to map and document how South African women have experienced 20 years of Freedom, or put differently, to document what the lived reality of South African women has been over 20 years of Freedom. The purpose of the Project is to avail research to civil society and public sector organisations which will enable planning and compliance with national imperatives on women’s empowerment and gender equality goals. The starting point is recognition of a need for an accessible and functional repository of information/research, addressing women’s needs, compiled for South African women, in order to strengthen women’s advocacy for women’s rights and gender equality. This is modeled on the Wetenskap Winkels developed in Germany in order to provide relevant research for community organisations with a view to enable them to contribute to effective policy making and national transformation processes. Access to information through the Wetenskap Winkels could enable community based organisations and interest groups to participate effectively in national processes such as policy making, development planning and to be commentators when key documents, such as the budget, are discussed.

The engagement of feminist scholars, the international women’s movement and women of the South with official development agencies and state parties has impacted on the agendas, policies and programmes of the State parties, multilateral organisations, official development agencies as well as the donor community. Their commitment to the development of new alternatives through rigorous and “continuous monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes, and (by) working out who gains and who loses in the different processes of development and why.” Their analysis of state parties and official policy making institutions draws attention to the rules, relations and practices through which institutions are constituted. Such analyses provides important entry points which point to the ways in which seemingly gender neutral rules, processes and practices may in fact function to institutionalize gender disparities and gender asymmetry. Essentially this has led to the creation of a new field of scholarship, expertise and research, as gender experts have delved more into development practice and public sector management and have understood the expertise required in order to support governments, civil society and public sector agencies to comply with national obligations towards women’s empowerment and gender equality as well as reflect on the practices of reporting on compliance with human rights instruments at national levels.

At the level of government, that is the public sector, South Africa has not developed the requisite expertise to report systematically and periodically on its compliance both with its national and international obligations on women’s empowerment and gender equality. Despite several attempts it has failed to develop the Management Information System (MIS) which would enable it to report on its endeavors on women’s empowerment on gender equality. The Commonwealth Secretariat defines the MIS as a “mechanism for gathering the data necessary for gender analysis and sharing and communicating the findings of that analysis, using sex disaggregated data and gender sensitive

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12 Here reference is made to a vast school of gender experts including Peggy Antrobus author of “The Global Women’s Movement; Origins, Issues and Strategies”, Devaki Jain, Amartya Sen, Fatou Sow, Sara Longwe, Charlotte Bunch and others; as well as feminist research organisations such as the Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era DAWN, the Association of African Women in Research and Development (AAWORD) and the Association for Women’s Rights and Development amongst others.
indicators. The MIS is... the central repository of gender information and the means by which such information is generated and disseminated to key stakeholders in the Gender Management System (GMS)."\footnote{13}

The concept of “women’s empowerment” requires that women at the national and local level are not only \textit{visible} to policy makers (even where policy makers themselves are women) but also that they \textit{have voice}, agency and that they are heard. In the South African context women are more often the subject of research, whether undertaken by state agencies, research institutions, development partners or independent scholars. Research is seldom undertaken or commissioned by women interest organisations in the interest of women themselves or commissioned by women’s organisations. To the extent that women’s organisations in South Africa are able to commission research, it is often donor requested evaluations at a point where the donor is considering renewing the grant, or terminating it. Very few women’s organisations are in a position to engage in research to inform their practice. In this regard South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID) stands out as an organisation which engages in research to inform its practice, as evidenced by the organisation’s in situ research carried out in Tunisia and Chile which informed the development of SAWID’s Development Caravan, currently being piloted in the Limpompo Province.

As a statutory organisation, the Commission on Gender Equality has the mandate to undertake research in order to advise parliament on factors which enable or abstract the realisation of women’s rights and gender equality goals. The Gender Equality Commission Act means that the CGE is in a unique position to inform on the factors which enable or limit the monitoring of government compliance with national obligations on women’s rights and gender equality. In a context where knowledge has become a highly commodified resource the fact that women as a sector do not have the capacity to access research or knowledge which would afford them the authority to hold state parties accountable on their compliance with constitutional imperatives. This means that women as a sector are unable to turn the tide on the current practice where commitments are made by governments but are not complied with. To render international commitments on women's rights and gender equality meaningful, it is necessary that access to appropriate research, or an effective gender management information system (GMIS) is enabled. Research that enables women to understand their situation holistically, assess the impact of development policies and programmes in their lives and act to change their situation in their strategic gender interests.

\section*{METHODOLOGY}

At present there is a critical gap in information on the situation of women in South Africa. Various studies have been implemented at different points and in isolated pockets; however there remains a need for a comprehensive data base on the situation of women responsive to the needs of the women’s sector to participate effectively in the newly established national development planning and monitoring mechanisms. The tapestry that still has to be woven requires mammoth efforts at multidisciplinary levels, and goes beyond the focus of this initiative. Many gaps persist with regard to the documentation of the experiences of women in South Africa including pre the encounter with colonialisms, the experiences of women during slavery as well as women’s access to or use of land pre the 1913 land act and beyond, as well as women’s experiences of and contribution to the South African liberation struggles.

\footnote{13} CM Chimkin ‘\textit{Gender Mainstreaming in Constitutional Affairs}’ pg 23
The focus of our study is on the 20 years of freedom, the period spanning the first democratic elections of 1994, South Africa’s participation for the first time in the international world conferences of Women at the Beijing Conference in 1995 and the public sector or state experiment in integrating women’s rights in development practice in the first two decades of freedom.

The first phase of the project will be an intense information gathering exercise which will comprise the key components for a website on Women in South Africa 2015: Towards 20 Years of Freedom, a global report under the same title as well as 6 thematic reports. An accompanying study will be A Review of the South African Experience in Reporting on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality: Challenges and Best Practices

1. **THE MAIN PAPER**
   **WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA 2015: TOWARDS 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM**

   This will be mixed method study, with baseline information on the situation in 1994, and tracking changes across the 18 years until 2013. One aspect will be statistical, tracking the situation of women in the numbers, thus outlining the statistics on the situation of women across the 12 critical areas of concern over the selected timeframe for the study. Another aspect will be the analytical narrative reflecting on the numbers and trends emanating from the statistics. This element of the study will also review measures put in place to address the situation of women; regional, continental and international obligations entered to; as well as the extent of compliance with these measures.

   Practically the study will provide an overview of the situation of South African women, tracking key trends over 18 years of freedom. To this end, an extensive desk top literature review will be undertaken. The focus will be on developing a baseline of the situation in 1994 and the trends since then, including through the following:

   - Compilation of a cohesive statistical data highlighting sex/gender differentials, as well as differences amongst women including across age focusing on the life cycle), race, rural or urban location as well as disability.
   - Undertaking an audit of national and international Commitment towards women’s empowerment and gender equality.
   - A desk top audit of the policy and legislative framework for women’s empowerment and gender equality.
   - A desk top audit and gap analysis of institutional mechanisms in place to advance the situation of women.
   - An audit and gap analysis of programmes in place to achieve women’s empowerment and gender equality.

2. **A Review of the South African Experience in Reporting on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality: Challenges and Best Practices**

   A key output of Women in South Africa 2015: Towards 20 Years of Freedom will be a praxis analysis. That is a reflection on the process of documenting and reporting on women’s rights, whilst engaging in the process. This process will reflect on and document a highly neglected research area which includes the initiatives at the public and civil society sectors at reporting on compliance with human rights and constitutional obligations on women’s empowerment and gender equality. These initiatives date since the first national reports to the CEDAW
Committee presented to the CEDAW Committee in 1998 as well as the first government wide Audit of systems in place within the SA public sector to enable gender mainstreaming, which also assessed the capacity gaps within national governments and provincial administrations to report on and monitor the integration of women’s empowerment and gender equality goals, which was undertaken by the OSW in 1998.

The process of reporting on women’s human rights instruments as well as women in mainstream human rights instruments has been fragmented, under sourced, and uncoordinated. This report will provide an overview of:

- National reporting obligations on women’s empowerment and gender equality.
- Scope and Timeframes for National Reporting
- South Africa’s Record in reporting on compliance with Women’s Rights Instruments
- Recommendations and Best Practices

3. THE SIX THEMATIC REPORTS ON THE BPA CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN:

POVERTY, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, WOMEN IN POLITICAL AND DECISION MAKING POSITIONS, INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN; AS WELL AS THE GIRL CHILD

A national gender machinery process highlighted Poverty, Violence against Women, Education and Training, Political and Decision Making, Institutional Mechanisms and the Girl Child as priority areas for South Africa in the period following the nation’s first 5 year report submitted to the UN on the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action.

When completed, the overall report and thematic issue papers will enable the facilitation of a series of consultations with key constituencies including members of the research community, women sector organisations as well as interested parliamentarians and policy makers. The compendium of institutions working on women’s rights will provide a critical data base of key stakeholders who will receive draft discussion papers for review and be invited to dialogue sessions.

In each of the six thematic areas, there will be a Focus paper outlining:

- Definition of the thematic area, overview and relevant provisions of international regional treaties and national legislation
- Overview of progress and challenges related to the thematic at national, provincial and local levels
- Graphs, tables and narrative analysis of indicators related to the thematic area
- When completed, the overall report and thematic issue papers will enable the facilitation of a series of consultations with key constituencies including members of the research community, women sector organisations as well as interested parliamentarians and policy makers. The compendium of institutions working

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These priority areas were derived from the situation analysis emanating from the situation analysis in the first 5 year report on the BPA submitted by the government of South Africa.
working on women’s rights will provide a critical data base of key stakeholders who will receive draft discussion papers for review and be invited to dialogue sessions. That is facilitated dialogues on overall research paper, *Women in South Africa 2015: towards 20 Years of Freedom* and the 6 Thematic Reports on Women and Poverty, Violence against Women and Children,

The template below illustrates the format and scope of each thematic area report:

1. **POVERTY**

   1a. Definition of the Concept, including a box on poverty women and gender in South Africa
   
   1b. The statistics: Women, Men and Poverty in SA
   
   1c. Women and Poverty: commitments at national and international levels 1994; baseline and the data to date.
   
   1d. Analysis: what are the numbers telling us? Who is vulnerable, where are they?
   
   1e. What are the interventions? Who drives them?
   
   1f. Recommendations: What are the gaps?

2. **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

   The template for the issue paper on violence against women will follow the same format as above. However it is worthwhile to note that at SADC level, SADC member states have expanded the theme focus in this critical area of concern in the to include Violence perpetrated against women and children, therefore the template on violence will focus on violations perpetrated against women and children.

3. **THE GIRL CHILD**

   The girl child is a specific critical area of concern for African Women in the BPA; it is their specific contribution to the critical areas of concern outlined in the final BPA. For the purposes of the analysis, the focus is on the child as a person under the age 18, which is aligned with the National Child Care Act of 2008. The focus in this critical area of concern will be on the vulnerabilities of the Girl Child as well as national and international measures for the protection and promotion as outlined in the existing international instruments including the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as article 182 of the ILO Convention on Child Labour.

4. **THE THEMATIC AREAS OUTSIDE THE NGM PRIORITISATION PROCESS**
Whilst the choice of Thematic Areas is predetermined by the priority areas established in 2000/2001, areas which require specific attention given their adverse impact on the lives of women such as health and HIV and Aids, will be addressed comprehensively in the overall report.

CONSULTATIONS AND COLLABORATIONS

The main purpose of the consultations will be to engage on the information needs of practitioners in the area of women’s rights and gender equality. Having undertaken a study of the situation in terms of reporting on the situation of women and identified the various research users and their needs, it will be important to schedule focused interviews, both with respondents in the public and non-governmental sectors, in order to understand their research needs, and their perceptions about the factors which limit or enable their access to research.

The period between 8th March and 31st July 2013 will present an important consultative phase for the research endeavor. During this time selected recipients will receive survey questionnaires as well as draft discussion papers based on their area of work or research.

DIRECTORY OR COMPENDIUM OF NGO’S AND RESOURCES FOR WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

The study will enable a mapping of resources including ngo’s, section 9 organisations, research institutions as well as research agencies which address women’s rights and social justice concerns. Including also work undertaken under the auspices of the National Gender Machinery in developing the national gender programme (ngm) for South Africa, including also the development of the initial priority areas for South Africa’s national gender programme which provide the priority areas of focus for this study.

The compendium will be compiled through a combination of methods including through desk top research, targeting individual members of organisations and providing them with a template/questionnaire which will enable them to enter key information on their organisations including contact details, area of work, scope of work and organizational reach and cross referencing with practitioners in the field will ensure that the compendium is as comprehensive as possible.

It will include both non government and public institutions working on women’s rights.

FACILATED DIALOGUES AND RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

The research results will be disseminated to key stakeholders including organisations documented in the compendium of women’s organisation and resources. In addition, a series of seminars will be facilitated to focus on the dissemination of the outcome of each research output.

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15 International Women’s Day
16 Pan African Women’s Day
17 Established per the National Framework on Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality which was approved by Cabinet in 2000
PROJECT FACILITATION AND RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

The process of establishing a South African Women’s Rights Observatory at the University of Pretoria requires that a fellow with specific gender and women’s rights expertise is engaged.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Scientific Advisory will be required to review and validate the research on the basis of the following:

- Scope of the project
- Relevance of the overall report and the six thematic reports in looking at factors specific to Women in South Africa
- Technical competence
- Choice of indicator and whether they incorporate all the fundamental variables to measure gender inequality in South Africa as defined in key international instruments including the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for action

Key outputs

2. 6 Issue papers: Women and Poverty
   - Violence against Women and Children
   - Education and Training
   - Women in Political and Decision making Positions
   - Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women
3. A Compendium of Organisations and Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in South Africa
5. A project website that is a GMIS

KEY RESOURCES

Colleges within UNISA
National Gender Machinery
UNECA Africa Centre for Gender and Social Development which administers the African Women’s Observatory
SA’s periodical reports to the Commission on the UN on the Status of Women on its compliance with the Beijing Platform of Action
South Africa’s reports to the CEDAW Committee on its Compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
South Africa’s NEPAD Report
South Africa’s MDG Report
WORKING SCHEDULE

Once the principle of a South African Women’s Rights Observatory is accepted, a facilitated workshop will be held with key stakeholders within UNISA, to outline the objectives, outputs, scope and contents of the Observatory as well as partners for the programme. Below is a proposal of key dates.

1  PROGRAMME LAUNCH

The proposed date for the programme launch will be 25th November 2012, which is also the international day of No Violence against Women, and marks the first day of the 16 days campaign on No Violence against Women. At this launch, two aspects of the research will be disseminated.

1.1 The Compendium of Women’s organisations and resources in South Africa
1.2 The thematic Paper on No Violence Against Women and Children

To enable the facilitation of this launch, both outputs will be completed and submitted for editing and disseminated among the Scientific Advisory Group for review by October 31 2012

2  LAUNCH OF THE KEY REPORT

The proposed launch of key report Women in South Africa 2015: Towards 20 Years of Freedom is 8th March 2013, international Women’s Day. At this launch the main output will be research report. In addition however a project website will be launched.

To enable the launch to take place by 8th March, the web design will have to be completed by January 31st. On that day the final draft of the report will also be submitted for editing and disseminated amongst the members of the Scientific Advisory.

3  LAUNCH OF 5 THEMATIC PAPERS

The remaining 5 thematic papers will be launched on the 31st July 2013, Pan African Women’s Day. To enable this launch two reports Women in Political and Decision Making Positions, and Institutional Mechanisms for Women’s Empowerment will be completed by mid April 2013; The report on the Girl Child will be finalized and distributed to the advisory by 20th May and launched before or by June 16th, which is South African Youth Day.

The remaining reports on Women and Poverty as well Women Education and Training will be launched on the 31st of July 2013.