

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 have been characterized by new and increased interest on the part of civil society and the State in promoting gender equality and guaranteeing citizenship for all women.

the event, the "Fourth World Conference on Women, Development and Peace", held in debate on the need for the State, commitment to achieve gender equity and instruments to guarantee the conference,

gated to achieving gender equality and advancement for the advancement of women, "Action for the Advancement of Women" has been identified as focal point for national development processes.

have been implemented by the Ministry of Dominican Women.

Merida and the "Plan of Action" of 1995; this constitutes the country's fundamental plan of action.

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 consensus regarding the identification of the principal problems of Dominican women and the necessary corrective measures. This document reflects the commitment assumed by the Dominican Republic at the Fourth World Conference.

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

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

Because of the importance and scope of the Beijing Conference on Women, "Action for Equal Opportunities in Beijing" in September 1995, highlighted through public policies, to adopt a comprehensive approach to gender issues and encouraged the creation of initiatives to effectively fulfill the promises made at the Conference.

In the Dominican Republic, the government is mainly responsible for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which includes the adoption of public policies on the subject. The Department of National Preparations for the Fourth Conference.

The main objective of the Platform for Action for the Advancement of Dominican Women is to implement the Beijing Platform for Action through the Platform for Action for the Advancement of Dominican Women, 1995-2000, in collaboration with the Government of the Dominican Republic.

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The full implementation of the Platform for Action for the Advancement of Dominican Women will allow women to enjoy their rights and fully participate in the development of the country, social and cultural life, and the community.

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.

and improving the treatment of
city and an inclusive social
of women in the media. Health issues and
promotion of total health and the
of all forms of violence against women.
national policy in gender issues reflects the
viving Platform. In many of the areas mentioned
alive, there have been significant achievements or breakthroughs in the
Dominican Republic.

Empowerment of Women

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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 65-97 amending the Agrarian Reform Act establishes the principle of equality in all benefits, obligations and legal proceedings concerning agrarian issues.

Law 14-91 for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, prescribes protection of the family and violence and sexual assaults against

SMN Law 14-91
penalties for
family member

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

4., Law 855
women in Labor

Law 14-91 deals with equal access to employment, combatting extreme poverty through integration

The above-mentioned

women in conditions of extreme poverty in the subject
line, agrarian reform AGC and other activities undertaken by the DPPD and specifically by other government sectors.

Agriculture, health

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

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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 pilot-project on the subject of non-violence.

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

participation of women in public life, strengthening of mechanisms for

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participation of women in public life, strengthening of mechanisms for
advancement, institutionalization of the Department for the Advancement of Women, the National Commission for the Advancement of Women and the National Council for the Advancement of Women. It should be emphasized that changes in attitudes, information media and other social sectors are efforts made by specific bodies such as the DPAW, the Department for the Advancement of Women, which plays an impact on government units which are traditionally lagging behind in this regard. In the Dominican Republic, the Women's movement has played a leading role in bringing gender issues to the forefront of public opinion.

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While it cannot be denied that priority has been given to the advancement of women's issues, women's advancement in other areas of public policy is

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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

a not possible to identify exactly how much of the National budget is allocated to equality and women's advancement, because the allocations for the UNI
industries and private institutions appear as global items. It is
only to indicate the funds allocated to the Department for the

| Contribution category | Amount |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| State | \$ 3010 000.00 |
| Private | \$ 531 431.00 |
| Total | \$ 3541 431.00 |
| National donations | \$ 381,000.00 |

which has restricted

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

the Dominican Republic

and strengthening of the State, and the promotion and protection of women's rights and the empowerment of women. In this context, the Government has given special attention to the creation, encouragement and support of national and international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of women's rights and the empowerment of women. The Government has also adopted measures to combat discrimination and marginalization, and to guarantee the participation of women in decision-making. The Government has also adopted measures to combat discrimination and marginalization, and to guarantee the participation of women in decision-making.

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

"...technical secretariats at different branches of government; the ministries of Foreign Relations, Education and Culture, Agriculture, Public Health, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Evangelical Church, the Coordinator of the National Research Centre for Feminine Action; and Women's NGOs for Women's Issues Development."

Follow up and monitor the National Plan of Action for Women, which embodies the main actions and measures of guarantee equality of women and break down barriers of discrimination by the year 2001, in connection with the regional and international Conference.

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

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

The Dominican Congress is currently studying to elevate the Department for the Advancement of Women. This status would give it greater influence in policy making, to help women participate in state forums where decisions are taken and greater scope power exercise.

In this legislative area, efforts are being made to amend codes and special laws which discriminate against women and to publicize, through the various media, the changes of 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 punishment of violence against women.

Ratification of this convention has proved highly instrumental in amending our national laws to respond to the commitments which the Convention entails for the protection of women.

Law 24-97 of 26 January 1997, which amended the Penal Code, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Code for the Protection of Women, deals with violence, discrimination and desertion of women and prescribes penalties for violence against women. It also describes and prescribes penalties for desertion of women. It prescribes penalties for procuring and trafficking in women. It prescribes penalties for desertion of family and defines and

Reference to the adoption of the new Penal Code, the Code of Civil Procedure and Adolescent Justice. This Law classifies and domestic and international sexual assault. It precisely defines and prescribes

ion. Information is given below on some of

prescribes penalties for discrimination in the amended articles.

the Dominican Government established the

Commission for the Prevention and Repression of Intra-family Violence

for the prevention

of personal violence and for the assistance and rehabilitation of the victims of intra-family violence.

The Reform and

Development of the

Capital District, the National Institute for the Development of the

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

In 1998, by Decree No. 423

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

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of San Francisco de Macorís, 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 Espaillat, 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 Samaná, established in 1997.

Provincial Office for Women's Issues of the Province of Monte Plata, 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, based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention of Women and the Beijing agreements.

The National Plan for Gender Equity is imple-

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.

non-governmental organizations, through the Coordinator of NGOs for Women's Issues, the Cibao Women's Coordinator, various topical and sectorial, 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 1996.

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 situation of women and gender issues; their contribution to the empowerment of national leaders in the political arena; and their influence on public policies ensuring a gender perspective arrangements regarding the participation of women in the political process; by DGPM.

The non-governmental organizations participate in national and international meetings through their participation in national and international meetings organized by DGPM.