

## **Inputs to the Secretary-General's report to ECOSOC on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of LDCs**

Since the adoption of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developing Countries (LDCs), in Brussels on 20 May 2001, reports of the following Least Developing Countries (LDCs), have been considered by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Guinea<sup>1</sup>, Uganda<sup>2</sup> and Zambia<sup>3</sup>. The reports of these countries indicated that women continue to suffer discrimination due to their sex. They are excluded to varying extents from full participation, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic life of their societies. Women are also disproportionately affected by the negative impact of external debt, the implementation of structural adjustment programmes, the decrease in prices for local produce, the decline of levels of development assistance and growing disparities in the distribution of wealth. They are often disadvantaged in terms of the benefits of social and economic development, in particular education and employment, and suffer disproportionately from poverty, malnutrition and inadequacy of health care. All these phenomena are severe particularly, in rural areas, where the majority of poor women live and work.

All LDCs, with the exception of Kirbati, Somalia and Sudan have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Regarding the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, only the following four countries have done so i.e. Bangladesh, Mali, Senegal and the Solomon Islands.

The Women's Rights Section of DAW is organizing a CEDAW training and Judicial Colloquium in Arusha, Tanzania from 9-13 June 2003.

This Colloquium will be attended by judges/lawyers, among others, from the following LDCs: The Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Participants at the Colloquium will be provided with an opportunity to examine how international human rights law can be used at the domestic level to achieve equality for women and girls.

The main objective of the training/ workshop component will be to enhance the capacity of government officials to prepare States parties' reports in accordance with article 18 of the Convention. Participants will be from the same abovementioned LDC countries.

Since June 2001, representatives from 30 LDCs participated in technical assistance and advisory services activities offered by the DAW in the areas of human rights of women,

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<sup>1</sup> Twenty-fifth session; The report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: General Assembly: Official Records: Fifty-sixth session, Supplement No. 38 (A/56/38) pages 55-60

<sup>2</sup> Exceptional session: Ibid; Supplement No.38 (/A/57/38) pages 165-170

<sup>3</sup> Twenty-seventh session: Ibid pages 107-114

peace and security, capacity-building for institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, as well as for women in decision-making positions in the public sector (mainly members of parliament). Specifically, activities aimed at capacity-building for the advancement of women, mainstreaming gender perspectives, and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Support took the form of training workshops and seminars, colloquia, needs assessments, sensitization and awareness raising activities, as well as activities to enhance networking capacity and arrangements.

Number of women trained: 110 +3 if East Timor is included → 113.

Number of men trained: 38

Total number trained: 148 +3 if East Timor is included. → 151

Participants from LDCs:

Workshop	Women	Men	Total
CEDAW judicial colloquium	3	6	9
CEDAW training	10	4	14
Parliamentarian forum in Morocco	10		10
Parliamentarian forum in Bangkok	6	1	7
Gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting in Tanzania	13	8	21
Gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting in Mali	10	12	22
Conflict management training workshop in Cape Town	15	1	16
Conflict management training workshop in Conakry, Guinea	17		17
Micro finance training workshop in Ghana	12	3	15
Micro finance training workshop in Morocco	14	3	17
Total	110	38	148

**List of Least Developed Countries  
(as of August 2002)**

1. Afghanistan	Participated in the CEDAW training in Bangkok (Nov. 2002)
2. Angola	
3. Bangladesh	Participated in the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Parliamentarian Forum (March & Dec. 2002). Participated in the CEDAW training in Bangkok (Nov. 2002).
4. Benin	Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002).
5. Bhutan	Participated in the Judicial Colloquium and CEDAW training in Bangkok (Nov. 2002).
6. Burkina Faso	Participated in the 1 <sup>st</sup> Parliamentarian Forum in Morocco (March 2002). Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002)
7. Burundi	Participated in the conflict management training workshops (Oct. 2001 & Oct. 2002). Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002)
8. Cambodia	Participated in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Parliamentarian Forum (Dec. 2002). Participated in the Judicial Colloquium and CEDAW training in Bangkok (Nov. 2002)
9. Cape Verde	
10. Central African Republic	
11. Chad	Participated in the sub-regional training workshop on gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting. (Feb. 2003). Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002). Pilot country for national machineries project.
12. Comoros	
13. Democratic Republic of Congo	Participated in the conflict management training workshops (Oct. 2001 & Oct. 2002). Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002)
14. Djibouti	Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002)
15. Equatorial Guinea	
16. Eritrea	Participated in the micro finance workshop in Ghana. (April 2002)
17. Ethiopia	Participated in the conflict management workshops (Oct. 2001). Pilot country for national machinery project. Participated in the micro finance workshop in Ghana (April 2002). Participated in the training workshop on gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting in Tanzania (Dec. 2001).
18. Gambia	Participated in the micro finance workshop in Ghana (April

<p>19. Guinea</p>	<p>2002) Participated in the conflict management workshops (Oct. 2001&amp; Oct. 2002). Pilot country for national machineries project. Participated in the training workshop on gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting in Mali (Feb. 2003). Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 202). Participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> parliamentarian Forum in Morocco (March 2002).</p>
<p>20. Guinea-Bissau</p>	<p>Participated in the conflict management workshops (Oct. 2001).</p>
<p>21. Haiti 22. Kiribati 23. Lao People's Democratic Republic</p>	<p>Participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Parliamentarian Forum (March &amp; Dec. 2002). Participated in the CEDAW training in Bangkok (Nov. 2002)</p>
<p>24. Lesotho</p>	<p>Participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Parliamentarian Forum (March 2002). Participated in the micro finance workshop (April 2002)</p>
<p>25. Liberia</p>	<p>Participated in the conflict management workshops (Oct. 2001&amp; Oct. 2002).</p>
<p>26. Madagascar</p>	
<p>27. Malawi</p>	<p>Participated in the micro finance workshop in Ghana (April 2002). Participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> parliamentarian Forum in Morocco (March 2002). Pilot country for national machinery project. Participated in the training workshop on gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting (Dec. 2001).</p>
<p>28. Maldives</p>	
<p>29. Mali</p>	<p>Hosted the training workshop on gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting (Feb. 2003). Pilot country for national machineries project Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002).</p>
<p>30. Mauritania</p>	<p>Participated in the training workshop on gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting (Feb. 2003). Pilot country for national machinery project. Participated in micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002).</p>
<p>31. Mozambique</p>	
<p>32. Myanmar</p>	
<p>33. Nepal</p>	<p>Participated in the second Parliamentarian Forum (Dec. 2002).</p>
<p>34. Niger</p>	<p>Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002).</p>
<p>35. Rwanda</p>	<p>Participated in the conflict management workshops (Oct. 2001 &amp; Oct. 2002). Pilot country for national machinery project. Participated in micro finance workshop on Ghana (April. 2002). Participated in the training workshop on gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting (Dec. 2001)</p>
<p>36. Samoa</p>	
<p>37. Sao Tome and</p>	<p>Participated in the micro finance workshop in Morocco (April</p>

38. <b>Principe</b> Senegal	2002). Participated in micro finance workshop in Morocco (April 2002)
39. <b>Sierra Leone</b>	Participated in the conflict management training workshops (Oct. 2001& Oct. 2002).
40. Solomon Islands	
41. Somalia	
42. <b>Sudan</b>	Participated in the micro finance workshop in Ghana (April 2002)
43. <b>Togo</b>	Participated in the micro finance workshop in Togo (April 2002). Participated in the conflict management workshop in Cape Town (Oct. 2001)
44. Tuvalu	
45. <b>Uganda</b>	Participated in the micro finance workshop in Ghana (April 2002). Participated in the conflict management workshop in Cape Town (Oct. 2001)
46. <b>United Republic of Tanzania</b>	Participated in the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Parliamentarian Forum (March & Dec. 2002). Hosted a training workshop on gender-sensitive national planning and budgeting. (Dec. 2001). Participated in the micro finance workshop in Ghana (April 2002).
47. Vanuatu	
48. Yemen	
49. Zambia	

countries participated in the DAW activities

+ East Timor Participated in the CEDAW training in Bangkok (Nov. 2002)

Additionally, the Division for the Advancement of Women facilitates the participation of NGOs from LDCs, in sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and CEDAW including both substantive and procedural briefings on the work of the Commission. The Division also invites NGOs from these countries as experts to expert group meetings held in preparation for the Commission on the Status of Women. Their representatives make substantive inputs to on-line discussions that the Division convenes and they are provided with opportunities to address the Commission during the general debate and during the panel discussions. NGOs from LDCs also participate in CEDAW sessions, which are held twice each year and they are able to present their alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee.

Because, the Division for the Advancement of Women is policy oriented, the impact of attendance by participants of LDCs, at the various training programmes, and meetings is assessed only through completion evaluations/questionnaires or general concluding remarks/ discussions to ascertain the relevance and adaptability. Moreover, because the technical cooperation resources of the Division are minimal and there are budgetary constraints, it is not possible to initiate more programmes.