



GENDER NEWS

Upcoming Events:

- Beijing +15 Review in Banjul, the Gambia, November 16-20 2009
- Winter School for SADC/SAARC Women in Business Association in India, November 22-28 2009
- Training of Directorates on Gender Mainstreaming January 2010
- UN 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, USA, 1-12 March 2010

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Malawi signs Gender Protocol

It is with great pleasure and honour that the Gender Unit welcomes the signing of the Protocol on Gender and Development by Malawi. The President of Malawi, His Excellency Bingu Wa Mutharika, signed the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development on the 19th October 2009 at the Sanjika Palace in Blantyre, Malawi. SADC Secretariat was honoured to facilitate the government of Malawi and H. E. the President in the signing of the Protocol. In attendance from SADC Secretariat was the Head of the Gender Unit, Ms. Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela, Legal Expert, Mr. Titus Nxumalo and Secretary of the Legal Affairs Unit, Ms Musa Dube.



His Excellency Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of Malawi signs the Gender Protocol, on the 19th October 2009, in Blantyre.

Malawi's signing of the Protocol brings in total 13 out of the 15 SADC Member States that have signed the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. To date two Member States namely Namibia and Zimbabwe has already ratified the protocol on Gender and Development on the 7th and 22nd October 2009, respectively. The remaining Member States are

busy with the national processes as required by their respective constitutions on ratification. For the Protocol to enter into force for implementation there is need for Ratification by signatories. According to Article 40 of the Protocol "This Protocol shall be ratified by the signatory States in accordance with their constitutional procedures." Furthermore, Article 41 that deals with Entry into Force states that 'This Protocol shall

enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of the Instruments of Ratification by two-thirds of the Member States'.

Ratification is the act by which a state confirms the signature of a treaty by its representatives, whereby the state expresses its final and definite accord to be bound by the agreement while Domestication is the integration of the decisions **contained in the Protocol into domestic law.**

2009 Meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs, 27-29 October 2009, Johannesburg, South-Africa.

The SADC Ministers responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs met in Johannesburg, South Africa on the 29th October 2009, to discuss the SADC Regional Gender Programme. It was attended by Ministers and senior officials from Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique,

Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The meeting was also attended by partners from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre

(SARDC). The meeting was officially opened by Hon. Marie Ange Lukiana Mufwankolo, Ministre de la condition féminine, from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The meeting was a great success. The Ministers approved the ———>(continued on page 2)

2009 Meeting of SADC Ministers Responsible for Gender/Women's Affairs



Hon. Prince Chief Geokomo Dlamini Minister of Inkhundla, Swaziland and Ms. Jane Mkhonta-Semelane during the Ministerial Meeting.

—> (continued from page 1) Regional Strategy for Achieving the 50/50 Target of Women Representation in Politics and Decision Making Positions by 2015. The Ministers also endorsed the Ten year Regional Strategic Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, which was adopted by SADC

Ministers responsible for combating trafficking in persons in May 2009 in Maputo, Mozambique and approved by Council of Ministers in Kinshasa, DRC in September 2009. In addition, Ministers approved the Draft Monitoring Tool for the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development for use by SADC Member States in tracking the

implementation of the Protocol. The Ministers also congratulated Malawi on signing the Protocol on Gender and Development on the 19th October 2009 and applauded Namibia and Zimbabwe for ratifying this SADC Protocol on the 7th October 2009 and 22nd October 2009, respectively. They further encouraged Botswana and Mauritius to sign the Protocol.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Hon. Min. Nolutshando Mayende-Sibiya, the staff at the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disabilities and at the Department of International Relations for supporting and hosting this meeting. The Democratic Republic of Congo generously offered to host the next meeting in May 2010.



Launch of the SADC Gender Monitor and Wheels of Change

On the evening of 29th October 2009 a book launch was held at the Emperor's Palace in Johannesburg, South Africa for two exciting and significant publications at SADC, the **SADC Gender Monitor** and **Wheels of Change**. The SADC Gender Monitor is a biennial production by SADC Gender Unit and the Southern African Research and Documentation Centre & Women in Development Southern African Awareness (SARDC-WIDSAA).

The 2009 publication is titled "Tracking the Implementation of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development." This book focuses on different articles of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development giving highlights of current information and of the status quo on the thematic areas of concern, thus serving as an essential reference and baseline needed for strategic planning and programming on gender commitments as outlined in the protocol.

The second book, **Wheels of Change**, was compiled in collaboration and with financial support from Member States. It profiles a number of men and women identified by Member States in the SADC region who are tirelessly promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Recognizing these achievements in this book, allows us to celebrate the efforts made by these inspiring individuals.



Top from left: Ms. Magdeline Mathiba-Madibela; Hon. Marie Ange Lukiana Mufwankolo (DRC); Hon. Nolutshando Mayende-Sibiya (South Africa) and Hon. Marlene Mungunda (Namibia).

Above: Ms. Tafadzwa Ndoro (SARDC); Ms. Mathiba-Madibela and the Hon. Nolutshando Sibiya Min. of Women, Youth, Children and People with Disability (South Africa) launching publications.

Gender Focal Persons Quarterly Meeting

The Quarterly Meeting for Gender Focal Persons was held October 5th, 2009 at the SADC Secretariat Headquarters. It was a valuable meeting that accomplished a number of things. The objectives of the meeting were to review and finalise the Terms of Reference for the SADC Gender Focal Persons; to share and reflect on the status of Gender Mainstreaming in SADC Policies, programmes, activities – and to identify best strategies to intensify efforts; to discuss the Gender Mainstreaming Plan for 2009/10 and to agree on specific Gender Mainstreaming activities and time frames for the quarter.

Also presented at the meeting was the Gender Mainstreaming Planned Activities for 2009/2010, which include the following:

- Translating and printing the SADC Gender Mainstreaming Resource Toolkit in French and Portuguese;
- Launching the Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit and the SADC Workplace Gender Policy;
- Training of SADC directorates staff on Gender Mainstreaming

- Conduct the Training of Trainers on Gender Mainstreaming for National Gender Machineries and key Sectors;
- Commemoration of International Women's Day on the 8th March 2010;
- Quarterly Meetings of the SADC Gender Sub-Committee.

The next meeting for the Gender Sub-Committee will be held in January, 2010.

Open and Distance Learning Pays Dividends- Case Study of Zambia: Promoting Women's Education through ODL

Zambia is one of the Member States that registered its success in promoting women and girls' education using ODL programmes in addition to the conventional system of learning. During the advocacy workshop, held in Lusaka, from 11-13 August 2009, a number of male and female officials from the Ministry of Education testified and shared their experiences in



Ms. Tressa Chella Phiri, Zambia

learning through open and distance learning (ODL). ODL has contributed to women empowerment in Zambia as more Education Officers indicated having acquired higher qualification through ODL. One of the Principal Education Officers narrated her story that she acquired her Masters Degree through ODL and currently is working as a Principal Education Officer. Another ODL graduate, Ms. Tressa Chella Phiri, joined the testimony. She narrated her experience as a pure ODL learner from secondary school to university level to the audience of 59 people from the various professions. Her experience is unique because she

dropped out of school when she was in grade 9, as her parents were forcing her to get married due to poverty hurdles. Yet she refused to get married, and instead continued her studies through ODL. Later in life, she got married and her husband encouraged her to further continue with her studies. She did both her secondary and university education through ODL and graduated with a Bachelors Degree-Merit from the University of Zambia in August 2009. She is currently working with the Ministry of Education as a Senior Secretary, but with her recent graduation she will be able to move up in her career.

Indeed ODL is the best panacea to acquire educational qualifications for both men and women with other commitments.

How many women like Tressa have failed to acquire qualifications because of poverty, reproductive roles and other commitments and have consequently been trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty?

Defining GENDER MAINSTREAMING:

"gender mainstreaming" means the process of identifying gender gaps and making women's, men's, girls' and boys' concerns and experiences integral to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all spheres so that they benefit equally. *SADC Protocol on Gender and Development*



The Importance of Gender Mainstreaming

The Gender Unit will be launching the Gender Mainstreaming Resource Toolkit in the New Year. This vital document will be used for training Directorates on Gender Mainstreaming and serve as reference material for the integration of gender into the work of all directorates and Units in the Secretariat as well as sectoral ministries in Member States. Gender Mainstreaming is important because it includes gender-

specific activities, whenever women or men are in a particularly disadvantageous position. Gender-specific interventions can target women exclusively, men and women together, or only men, to enable them to participate in and benefit equally from development efforts. Mainstreaming is not about adding a 'woman's component' or a 'gender equality section' into an existing activity; it means bringing

the experience, knowledge, and interests of women and men to bear on the development agenda. The goal of mainstreaming gender equality is thus equal and just structures for both men and women (ILO, 2002). The Gender Mainstreaming Resource Toolkit will provide the necessary training for SADC Units to mainstream gender into their policies, programmes and projects.

Towards Gender Parity in 2015 in SADC: Did you know that.....

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development sets the target of 50% representation of women in politics and decision making positions by 2015 at all levels. Currently at Ministerial (Cabinet) level South Africa is closest to the target with 42%, followed by Angola and Lesotho both at 32%. At Parliamentary level South Africa is leading with 45%, followed by Angola with 37%; Mozambique 35%, Namibia 31% and Tanzania 30%. At the level of Permanent Secretaries, Lesotho is closest to the target with 44%; followed by

Mauritius and Seychelles both at 35%; Botswana 31% and South Africa at 30%.

Women are doing well in penetrating the judiciary system in most Member States. Tanzania has more female judges than men, with a commendable 55.6% representation of women at the Court of Appeal and 56% at the High Court. Botswana has 43% representation of women Judges at the Industrial Court and Mauritius has an outstanding 67%



Ms. Elizabeth Kakukuru, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Gender Unit

representation of women as Regional Court Presidents and 46% women judges. South Africa has attained 44% representation of women at the regional courts. Zimbabwe has achieved gender parity at the level of Labour Court Presidents (with 50% and 42% of Administrative Court Presidents. At the Magistrate level, Tanzania and Mauritius have attained the 50:50 parity, followed by Botswana at 49%, Namibia at 43%; Lesotho 42%; Zimbabwe 41% and South Africa with 30%. In addition, women have been appointed in other high level positions which is a clear demonstration by Member States on their commitment to the gender equality and equity principles as enshrined in the different continental and regional instruments that they are a party to.

Gendered Impacts of HIV and AIDS

In a landmark report on the health of women and girls across the globe, the World Health Organization (WHO) states that AIDS-related illness is the leading cause of death and disease among women of reproductive age in low and middle income countries, particularly in Africa. Also, globally, unsafe sex is the single leading risk factor contributing to deaths among women of reproductive age.

In SADC, significant proportions of young women and men in the region continue to engage in risky sexual behaviours. For example, 10 out of 11 Member States (MS) who provided data on risky behaviours had 10 % or more of men reporting having had sex with more than one sexual partner in the last 12 months. However, the distribution of responses on this variable among women is different from that of men. Only one Member State had more than 10 % of women who reported that they had sex with more than one partner in the past 12 months. Women and girls are especially vulnerable to HIV infection due to a variety of social factors. These include low socio-economic status that can limit their choices and lead to high risk behaviours and norms and other factors that hinders them from seeking and obtaining the information they need to keep themselves safe. According to UNAIDS, globally only 38% of young women are able to describe the main ways to avoid infection and they are less likely to know that condoms can protect against HIV than young men.

In SADC, knowledge levels of modes of HIV transmission are still relatively low in the Member States. For example, only 3 out of 11 MS where data is available had more than 50 percent of females aged 15-24 years who both correctly identified ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission.

The same three Member States had more than 50 % of males who also both correctly identified ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and rejected

major misconceptions about HIV transmission (2007 SADC HIV and AIDS Epidemic Report, SADC Secretariat).

Data from 16 countries in sub-Saharan Africa from 2001-2007 also show that HIV prevalence is generally higher among adolescent girls aged 15-19 than their male counterparts. A significant cause of this is young girls partnering with older men who are more sexually experienced and more likely to be infected. Violence against women, especially sexual abuse is also a major cause of women and young girls increased vulnerability to HIV. In a violent and/or sexual abuse relationship, it is difficult or impossible for a woman or young girl to control their sexual lives, abstain from sex or get their partners or themselves to use condoms. Violence, or the threat of it, can also result in women avoiding available HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services.

With the introduction of the home-based care concept in many health systems in Member States, women and girls carry the heavy burden of AIDS such as caring for the sick and the young ones. This has also resulted in a new phenomenon of Child Headed Household, particularly by female children, in cases where parents are sick and too weak to perform their parental duties or where both parents have passed on. This impacts negatively on the girl children who as a result may drop out of school as they primarily take over the parenting responsibility of taking care of their siblings. This makes the girl children more vulnerable as they adopt survival risky behaviours, which might be detrimental to their own health and may expose them to health hazards.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN OCTOBER

As our reader, you might be wondering why we have chosen the pink colour for this Issues of our Newsletter. We would like to dedicate this publication to all women suffering from Breast Cancer while at the same time raise awareness on the issue.

Breast cancer is overwhelmingly a female disease, which becomes more common as age increases as research shows that more than 80% of cases of breast cancer occur in women over 50 years of age. However, you are **never too young** to develop breast cancer. Breast Self-Exam should begin by at least the age of twenty. **Early detection** of breast cancer, through monthly breast self-exam and particularly yearly mammography after the age 40, offers the best chance for survival. It is reported that 96% of women who find and **treat breast cancer early will be cancer-free** after five years.

Some possible contributing factors:

- Taking the contraceptive pill slightly increases the risk. Oral contraceptives may cause a slight increase in breast cancer risk; however 10 years after discontinuing use of oral contraceptives the risk is the same as

for women who never used the pill.

- Taking hormone replacement therapy significantly increases your risk somewhat more, but the health benefits derived from hormone replacement are better overall.
- Obesity and heavy drinking also significantly increase the risk.
- If one or more relatives have had breast cancer, this also increases your risk of developing breast cancer.

Screening for breast cancer by mammography can detect very early breast tumours, when they are too small to be felt. In fact, most of the breast cancers detected by screening are at this very early stage, when they are relatively easy to cure. Studies have shown that women who take part in screening are more likely to have breast cancer diagnosed

early and more likely to have it cured and, as a result, are less likely to die from it, than women who do not take part in mammography screening.

Another method of screening available to all women is to feel the breasts for any lumps. Women should also check for the other main symptoms:

- Change in the size or shape of a breast
- Dimpling of the breast skin
- The nipple becoming inverted
- Swelling or a lump in the armpit

Source: <http://womenshealth.about.com/cs/>



Breast Cancer Ribbon



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