

**STATUS OF WOMEN CANADA'S  
INTERNATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES  
TO PROMOTE THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

**HIGHLIGHTS  
(1998-2002)**

**April 2002**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Canada is committed to advancing gender equality and women's human rights through our domestic and international activities. Canada's commitment to gender equality is rooted in the belief that equal rights for women are an integral part of human rights and essential to democratic development.

As the federal department which promotes gender equality and the full participation of women in the economic, social, cultural and political life of Canada, Status of Women Canada (SWC) plays an important role in the advancement of gender equality around the world. In pursuing the goal of gender equality internationally, Status of Women Canada works in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the Canadian International Development Agency and other federal government departments, and with equality-seeking organizations. Status of Women Canada promotes gender equality in a number of multilateral organizations, such as the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Commonwealth, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and La Francophonie.

Over the past four years, Status of Women Canada has continued to stress the importance of the full realization of the human rights of women and the integration of gender perspectives, in various international fora. Information on earlier international activities of the Government of Canada on gender equality can be found on Status of Women Canada's website in the publication *Canada's International Activities to Promote the Advancement of Women: Highlights (1990-1997)*. The following are highlights of some of our recent and current activities in chronological order in these international fora:

- United Nations (UN): [General Assembly Special Sessions, Conventions and Commissions](#)
- [Organization of American States \(OAS\), Summit of the Americas](#)
- [Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation \(APEC\)](#)
- [The Commonwealth](#)
- [Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#)
- [La Francophonie](#)
- [Council of Europe \(CoE\)](#)
- [Metropolis Project](#)

## 2. UNITED NATIONS (UN) - Special Sessions of the General Assembly

<http://www.un.org/>

Status of Women Canada, working in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), and other relevant federal government departments, contributed to Canadian governmental positions at the following special sessions of the UN General Assembly since 1998:

### 2.1 21<sup>st</sup> United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (**ICPD +5**), 30 June to 2 July 1999, New York

<http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/icpdmain.htm>

- Governments adopted a [Political Declaration](#) ([http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/round&meetings/hague\\_forum/reports/finaldeclaparlia.htm](http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/round&meetings/hague_forum/reports/finaldeclaparlia.htm)) and [Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development](#) (<http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/index.htm>). The ICPD +5 process focussed on identifying the challenges hindering implementation and concentrated on the formulation of key actions to assist implementation.

- Canada worked to maintain the rights set out in the 1994 *Programme of Action* (<http://www.unfpa.org/icpd/reports&doc/icpdpoae.html>), with particular emphasis on sexual and reproductive rights and health of women. Consistent with its position in other international fora, Canada supported an approach that responds to the varying needs of women throughout the life cycle.

## 2.2 23<sup>rd</sup> United Nations General Assembly Special Session entitled: **Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century (Beijing +5)**, 5-9 June 2000, New York <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/confer/beijing5/>

- The Special Session identified achievements and obstacles, current challenges, and actions and initiatives to overcome obstacles to achieve the full and accurate implementation the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (PFA) (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/index.html>), adopted at the 1995 Fourth UN World Conference on Women.
- Status of Women Canada (Beijing +5 Secretariat) and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade led the government of Canada's preparation for Beijing +5. This included preparation of *Canada's National Response to the UN Questionnaire on Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action* (<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/beijing5/quest-e.html>).
- At the Special Session, Canada worked to secure the adoption of the Beijing +5 *Political Declaration and Outcome Document (Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action)* (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/followup/reports.htm>), a strong document which is action-oriented and forward-looking, based on best practices and lessons learned. The document reaffirmed the commitments of Governments to the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. These commitments include the promotion of the human rights of women and girls, gender mainstreaming, the importance of partnerships, the life-cycle approach, and respecting and valuing the diversity of women's experiences.
- Key achievements include agreement to take action:
  - to recognize the diversity of women's experiences, including barriers faced by indigenous women, particularly relating to decision-making, capacity-building, research, education, training, and violence;
  - to eliminate violence against women, in particular new references with regard to marital rape, acid attacks, crimes conducted in the name of honour and passion, and racially and ethnically motivated violence;
  - to protect civilians in armed conflict, including girls recruited in hostilities;
  - to address the gender specific impact of HIV/AIDS;
  - to improve the mental well-being of women and girls;
  - to improve new information technologies for women in terms of access, education, training, employment, and trade and commerce; and
  - to strengthen gender equality activities in the UN system.
- Although the document makes no specific reference to sexual orientation, several countries, including Canada, stated that they interpreted the reference to "other status as a barrier to full equality" to include sexual orientation. This is a position which is in keeping with judicial interpretations of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/index.html>) and current Canadian legislation.

- At the Special Session, there was renewed commitment to enhancing the relationship between governments, NGOs, and civil society, as an essential component to implementing commitments.

### 2.3 24<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly Special Session entitled: **World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world (WSSD +5), 26-30 June 2000, Geneva**

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/geneva2000/>

- At the Special Session and a major parallel NGO forum, delegations from 160 Member States met to review progress made in implementing the *Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action* (1995) (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/wssd/agreements/index.html>) and to identify further initiatives.
- Canada successfully integrated language in the final document titled *Further Initiatives for Social Development* (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/geneva2000/agreements/index.html>) on priority areas, including gender, indigenous people, vulnerable and marginalized groups as well as learning and skills. The international community recognized expressly that women and men experience poverty differently, unequally, and become impoverished through different processes and that if those differences are not taken into account, the causes of poverty cannot be understood or dealt with by public actions.
- The final document commits governments to strive towards the achievement of specific goals among which are:
  - the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms as a prerequisite for gender equality
  - halving the number of persons living in extreme poverty by 2015;
  - free and universal primary education for girls and boys by 2015;
  - the mainstreaming of gender in all levels of policy-making and the planning of programmes and projects.

### 2.4 25<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly Special Session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (**Istanbul +5**), 6-8 June 2001, New York

<http://www.un.org/ga/habitat/>

- Governments adopted the *Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium* ([http://www.unchs.org/istanbul+5/declaration\\_cities.htm](http://www.unchs.org/istanbul+5/declaration_cities.htm)) which renewed the commitments from the UN Conference on Human Settlements (1996), including the goals of achieving adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development.
- The Declaration identified progress achieved, and continuing gaps and challenges, and identified further actions and initiatives needed to accelerate implementation of the *Habitat Agenda* (<http://www.unchs.org/unchs/english/hagenda/ist-dec.htm>) (*Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements*) agreed to in 1996. In the Declaration, Governments reaffirmed their commitments in the Habitat Agenda concerning gender equality, and resolved to promote gender equality, the empowerment of women, and the full participation of women in human settlements development.
- Status of Women Canada played an active role to ensure that gains made in 1996 with regards to gender equality were upheld and further advanced in the preparations, work and outcomes of the Special Session. Through its active participation in inter-departmental, civil society, inter-governmental and international negotiations, SWC developed and advocated governmental positions and priorities on gender equality.

**2.5 26<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly Special Session entitled: HIV/AIDS: Global Crisis – Global Action, 25-27 June 2001, New York**  
<http://www.un.org/ga/aids/coverage/>

- The Special Session was held to consider the international community's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. All 189 UN member states adopted by consensus and with no reservations a comprehensive *Declaration of Commitment* ([http://www.unaids.org/whatsnew/others/un\\_special/index.html](http://www.unaids.org/whatsnew/others/un_special/index.html)) committing governments to a range of specific targets.
- Gender equality was strongly emphasized throughout the document. Countries agreed to adopt, as appropriate, measures to end discrimination against women in education, inheritance, employment, health care and other areas; to step up programs that give women control over their sex lives and reproductive health; and to end violence against women and girls, including rape, battering, trafficking in prostitution, and harmful traditional and customary practices.
- Status of Women Canada was actively involved in the development of Canadian negotiating positions through the interdepartmental committee and the national consultations. SWC built upon the work already achieved through the 45<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women on HIV/AIDS in 2001 and emphasized that gender equality had to be a basic premise of the Declaration.

**2.6 United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR), 31 August to 8 September 2001, Durban, South Africa**  
<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/index.htm>

- The objective of the World Conference was to review and assess the progress achieved in the past three decades designated by the UN to combat racism and racial discrimination (1973-2003); and to develop the *Durban Declaration and Programme of Action* (<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/Durban.htm>) providing the standards, structures, and remedies to ensure the full recognition of equality for all, and the full respect for their human rights.
- Status of Women Canada was actively involved in the preparatory activities for the WCAR, and worked to ensure that the intersectionality of gender and race, gender equality and women's human rights were integrated throughout the Declaration and Program of Action.

**2.7 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children (World Summit on Children +10), 8-10 May 2002, New York.**  
<http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/>

- The United Nations Special Session on Children will be held May 8-10, 2002. The session will review progress made for children in the decade since the 1990 World Summit and assess progress achieved in implementing the *World Declaration on Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action* (<http://www.unicef.org/wsc/declare.htm>).
- The Special Session is expected to produce a global agenda with a set of goals and a plan of action devoted to ensuring three essential outcomes: the best possible start in life for all children, a good-quality basic education for all children, and protecting children from abuse, exploitation and violence.

- Status of Women Canada contributed to the integration of a gender perspective in the Canadian preparations for the World Summit on Children +10. It is a Canadian priority to promote the advancement and empowerment of girls, and their full and equal participation in all spheres of society, as fundamental components for the achievement of a better world for all children.

### 3 UNITED NATIONS – Conventions and Commissions

<http://www.un.org/>

#### 3.1 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw>

- Status of Women Canada is the lead, with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, for Canada's involvement with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), the main UN body addressing the advancement of women.
- Since 1995, the CSW has been tasked as having a central role in monitoring implementation of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/index.html>) and the outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the UN General Assembly (Beijing +5) in 2000. Status of Women Canada is an active participant in all meetings and negotiations leading to the adoption of agreed conclusions and resolutions that reflect both domestic and international priorities.
- The Commission meets annually and will hold its 46<sup>th</sup> session in New York from 4-15 March 2002. The next session will address the themes of:
  - The empowerment of women throughout the life cycle as a transformative strategy for poverty eradication.
  - Environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective.
- The multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women for the period 2003-2006 is:
  - 2003: Participation and access of women to the media and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women; Women's human rights, and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session.
  - 2004: The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality; Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post conflict peace-building.
  - 2005: Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly; Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls;
  - 2006: Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and for the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work; Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.



### **3.2 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/index.html>

- The UN [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/index.html) (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/index.html>) was adopted by the United Nations in 1979 and ratified by Canada in 1981. As of May 2001, 168 Member States had ratified the Convention.
- The Convention is a comprehensive human rights treaty that affirms women's equality in the political, economic, social, cultural and civil fields. It addresses, but is not limited to, such diverse areas as women's access to health services, employment, reproductive rights, education, and civil, legal and political rights.
- Member States are expected to report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women every four years and highlight steps taken to implement the Convention. In discussions with State representatives, the Committee can provide recommendations to States Parties regarding ways to overcome obstacles and identify areas for further action.
- Status of Women Canada co-ordinates the federal government's portion of Canada's CEDAW reports. Canada submitted its third report in 1992 and fourth report in 1995, both of which were presented to the Committee in 1997. Canada's fifth CEDAW report covering the period 1994-1998 was submitted in early 2002 ([http://www.pch.gc.ca/ddp-hrd/docs/cedaw\\_e.shtml](http://www.pch.gc.ca/ddp-hrd/docs/cedaw_e.shtml)).
- The [Optional Protocol to CEDAW](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/current.htm) (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/protocol/current.htm>) is an important new international human rights instrument for women, which came into force in December 2000. The Optional Protocol contains two procedures. The first is a communications procedure allowing individual women or groups of women to submit claims of violations of rights protected under the Convention to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. The second is an inquiry procedure enabling the Committee to initiate inquiries into situations of "grave or systematic violations" of women's rights.
- At the international level, Canada strongly supported the adoption of an effective Optional Protocol. Status of Women Canada worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Justice Canada prior to and during the negotiations with UN member states. Canada contributed to achieving consensus agreement at the UN despite considerable opposition. The federal government is currently consulting with its provincial and territorial counterparts regarding Canada's position on the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

### **3.3 United Nations Protocol on Trafficking in Persons**

- On 14 December 2000 Canada signed the [United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime](http://www.un.org/partners/civil_society/docs/d-crime.htm) ([http://www.un.org/partners/civil\\_society/docs/d-crime.htm](http://www.un.org/partners/civil_society/docs/d-crime.htm)) and two protocols to this Convention. These protocols are the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/resins.htm) (Trafficking Protocol) (<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/resins.htm>) and the [Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/resins.htm) (Smuggling Protocol) (<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/resins.htm>). The new treaty and its protocols will enter into force after 40 countries have ratified them.



- Status of Women Canada has demonstrated leadership in bringing the issue of trafficking in persons to the fore at the federal level and supports integrating a human rights approach with the criminal justice approach to trafficking in women.
- Status of Women Canada is the co-chair, with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), of the interdepartmental Committee (IDC) that co-ordinated Canada's position for the negotiations in regards to the UN Protocols on the Smuggling of Illegal Migrants and the Trafficking in Persons. The other co-chair of the IDC was the Smuggling Secretariat of CIC. SWC will continue to focus on this critical area and work with its partners in other government departments to take joint action and develop strategies to address this heinous activity.

#### 4. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

<http://www.oas.org>

- The primary mechanism for the consideration of gender equality and women's human rights in the Americas is the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) (<http://www.oas.org>), a specialized agency of the Organization of American States (OAS) established in 1928. The Assembly of Delegates, held every two years involving representatives of 34 member states of the OAS, is the CIM's highest authority. It establishes CIM priorities and Plan of Action for the biennium and elects a seven-member Executive Committee.
- Canada's Principle Delegate to the CIM is the Co-ordinator of Status of Women Canada. Canada was a member of the CIM Executive Committee for the 1992-1994 biennium and was elected to the Executive Committee for the 2000-2002 biennium at the last CIM Assembly of Delegates that took place November 15-17, 2000. Canada tabled its national report on progress in implementing the CIM Strategic Plan of Action.
- Since Canada's election to the CIM Executive Committee in November 2000, Status of Women Canada and its other government department partners have had the opportunity to play a more active role in the organization, including strengthening the CIM as the main hemispheric policy body for gender equality and women's human rights and improving its linkages with the Summit of the Americas process.
- Status of Women Canada was instrumental in securing agreement for the First Meeting of Ministers of the Highest-ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States of the OAS held in April 2000 in Washington, D.C. The Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality (IAP) (<http://www.oas.org/>) was adopted at the meeting and subsequently by the OAS General Assembly at its 30<sup>th</sup> session in June 2000.
- The IAP constitutes an action agenda for governments, the OAS, and the CIM to integrate a gender perspective in their programs and activities. It is a forward-looking and comprehensive program for promoting women's human rights and gender equality in the inter-American system.
- The next CIM Assembly of Delegates will be held in October 2002 in the Dominican Republic. Status of Women Canada will continue its work with Canadian partners to further advance priority issues, including implementation of the IAP and commitments agreed to in the Declaration of Quebec City and Plan of Action (<http://www.summit-americas.org/eng/quebec-summit1.htm>) at the Third Summit of the Americas.
- The next Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers of the Highest Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States will be held in 2004.

## 5. SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

<http://www.summit-americas.org/>

- The First Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the thirty-four democratic countries of the hemisphere was held in Miami, USA in 1994 and the Second Summit in Santiago, Chile in 1998. Among the key issues that were brought to the table in Miami and in Santiago were gender equality and women's human rights.
- At the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec City, April 20-22, 2001) Status of Women Canada, in partnership with other government departments, worked to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in the *Declaration of Quebec City and Plan of Action* (<http://www.summit-americas.org/eng/quebec-summit1.htm>) and drafted key sections of the outcome documents.
- Renewed commitments were made in the *Declaration* and *Plan of Action* to protect women's human rights and fundamental freedoms and to promote gender equality. In the *Plan of Action*, two specific sections on the human rights of women (Section 2.4) and gender equality (Section 15) were endorsed.

## 6. ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

<http://www.apecsec.org.sg/body.htm>

- APEC was formed in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence among Asia-Pacific economies. Begun as an informal regional dialogue group with limited participants, APEC has since become the primary regional vehicle for promoting open trade and economic co-operation among its 21 member economies.
- In 1997, APEC Leaders made a commitment to integrate women and gender issues into the mainstream of APEC activities. As part of this initiative, the first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Women was held in 1998 in the Philippines.
- Based on the recommendations from the Ministerial Meeting on Women, a taskforce, co-chaired by SWC, developed the *Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC* (<http://www.apecsec.org.sg/body.htm>), which was adopted by APEC leaders in 1999. It is based on the three inter-related elements of gender analysis in policy-making, collection and use of sex-disaggregated data, and encouraging the increased participation of women in APEC fora.
- In 1999, an Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Gender Integration (AGGI) was established to provide gender advice to the Senior Officials' Meetings and implement the goals outlined in the *Framework*. The AGGI's mandate has been extended to the end of 2002 in order to complete its mandated tasks and act as a preparatory committee for the Second Ministerial Meeting on Women, scheduled for September 2002 in Mexico.
- Status of Women Canada's objective at the AGGI is to strengthen the work of APEC through recognition of the specific realities of women's lives and systematic consideration of gender perspectives in the achievements of its goals. The APEC forum addresses issues that directly advance Canada's key priorities in gender equality and women's economic autonomy.
- Status of Women Canada managed the *Gender Mainstreaming - Good Practices from the Asia Pacific Region* (<http://www.nsi-ins.ca/ensi/publications/index.html>) book project, published July 2001. The book is one of the mandated activities in the implementation strategy for the *Framework*

for the *Integration of Women in APEC*. The *Gender Mainstreaming Good Practices Book* provides concrete examples of gender mainstreaming that relate directly to APEC committees and working groups.

- Status of Women Canada's main objective at the Second Ministerial Meeting on Women (September 2002) is to have strong recommendations in the Ministerial Statement that will give renewed impetus and commitment to the continued integration of gender into APEC activities, as well as sustainable institutional and monitoring mechanisms to ensure the ongoing implementation of the *Framework for the Integration of Women in APEC*.
- Canada was also instrumental in the establishment of the Women Leaders' Network (WLN), an APEC-related body, which has met annually since 1996, and will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Mexico in August 2002.

## 7. THE COMMONWEALTH

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org>

- As a founding member of the Commonwealth in 1931, Canada has consistently taken an active role in developing measures to promote good governance and respect for fundamental political values. Toward this end, Canada played a key role in the negotiation of the 1991 *Harare Declaration* (<http://www.rcscanada.org/branch1/harare.html>), which enshrines women's equality as a fundamental principle of the Commonwealth.
- Canada received special recognition for its efforts to ensure the inclusion of gender priorities at the 1999 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Durban, South Africa. The *Durban Communiqué* ([http://www.thecommonwealth.org/dynamic/press\\_office/display.asp?id=126&type=press&cat=59](http://www.thecommonwealth.org/dynamic/press_office/display.asp?id=126&type=press&cat=59)) reaffirmed gender equality as an essential component of human equality and urged member countries to reinforce national machineries to implement gender mainstreaming. The *Update to the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development (2000-2005)* (<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/gender/index1.htm>) was endorsed by the CHOGM in 1999 and was presented as a special contribution to the United Nations Beijing +5 process in June 2000.
- The Sixth Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Women's Affairs took place in India in April 2000 to agree on strategies for implementing the *Update to the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development (2000-2005)*. Ministers discussed a range of issues focussing on gender mainstreaming, macro-economic policies and globalization, women's human rights, conflict and peace, political participation and HIV/AIDS. Canada presented a paper entitled *The Canadian Experience in Gender Mainstreaming* (<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/publish/international/011220-international-e.html>).
- Canada has filed a response to the "Questionnaire for the 2001 Report by the Commonwealth Secretary-General regarding Implementation of the 1995 Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development & Update (2000-2005)." Periodic reporting on implementation of the *Update* is an important mechanism to monitor its on-going implementation. As well, it enables Commonwealth Governments to share experiences and lessons learned in their efforts to achieve gender equality. The compiled reports through the *Learning by Sharing* series, can be found on the gender page of the Commonwealth website.
- The next meeting of Women's Affairs Ministers will be held in 2003 in Fiji.

## **8. ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)**

<http://www.oecd.org/>

- The OECD is a forum for research, discussion and development of economic and social policies amongst the 29 industrialised member countries.
- Canada consistently seeks to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in the activities of the OECD and supports efforts to raise awareness within the OECD and amongst member countries regarding the need to enhance gender mainstreaming throughout the institutional structure of the OECD.
- In 1998, the OECD made a commitment to undertake gender mainstreaming, and Status of Women Canada worked in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and in partnership with several countries to identify the measures and tools necessary to advance gender mainstreaming within the OECD structure.
- In July 2001, the OECD Council adopted recommendations regarding gender mainstreaming and equal opportunity, and created a new position of Gender Co-ordinator for one year to promote and coordinate implementation of these recommendations. SWC is making a voluntary contribution to this new position.
- In 2000, Status of Women Canada representatives attended an OECD international conference on *Gender mainstreaming, Competitiveness and Growth: What, When and How*, organized in co-operation with the Nordic Council of Ministers, and presented *The Canadian Experience in Gender Mainstreaming* (<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/publish/international/011220-international-e.html>).
- In November 2000, the Secretary of State (Status of Women) attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> OECD conference on *Women Entrepreneurs in SMEs: Realizing the benefits of globalization and the knowledge-based economy*, along with a number of prominent Canadian business women and men, which provided an opportunity to increase understanding of issues and policies related to the participation of women-owned business in the global economy

## **9. LA FRANCOPHONIE**

<http://www.francophonie.org/oif.cfm>

- La Francophonie is a forum for political dialogue and exchange amongst countries who use French as a common language, but who have diverse socio-cultural heritages. Canada is one of 55 Member States in La Francophonie and has played a leading role since the inception of La Francophonie in 1986 in encouraging the integration of women's issues in the activities of the organization.
- At the political level, Canada has supported resolutions tabled at Francophonie Summits to integrate gender perspectives in government policy development and programmes. During the XIIIth Summit, held in Moncton, New Brunswick in September 1999, Canada supported the *Summit Plan of Action*, (<http://www.francophonie.org>) which affirmed women's equality and encouraged the development of legal measures to reinforce women's human rights. The Summit also announced La Francophonie's intention to hold a conference on women's issues.

- Status of Women Canada worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and other departments in federal preparations for the First Conference on Women in La Francophonie, entitled *Women, Power and Development*, which was held in Luxembourg in February 2000. The Secretary of State (Status of Women) served on the Canadian delegation, which also included representatives of non-governmental organizations. SWC presented a paper on [The Canadian Experience in Gender Mainstreaming](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/publish/international/011220-international-e.html) (<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/publish/international/011220-international-e.html>), which was well received by other delegations.
- During negotiations of the *Luxembourg Declaration* (<http://www.francophonie.org/frm/actions/frm.html>), Canada was successful in ensuring the use of non-sexist language in the Declaration and led efforts to have the term 'gender-based analysis' included, for the first time, in an official Francophonie document. Canadian objectives at the conference were met within the context of the Declaration which reinforces women's equality as a fundamental element of human rights, respects diversity, seeks to eliminate violence against women, and identifies measures to improve women's institutional advancement.
- The *Luxembourg Declaration* was presented to the United Nations Beijing +5 session in June 2000 as a contribution reflecting efforts by Member States of La Francophonie to reinforce the principles set out in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action.
- Status of Women Canada is also actively involved in follow-up to the *Luxembourg Declaration* through its participation in an international expert group which developed a document on concepts and terminology on gender equality and rights issues, a commitment contained in the Declaration. This document is expected to be published by l'Agence Internationale de la Francophonie in 2002.

## 10. COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE)

<http://www.coe.int/portalT.asp>

- The Council of Europe is an international organization comprised of 41 European member states. Its main role is to strengthen democracy, human rights and the rule of law within member states. Canada currently has observer status within the COE and participates, when possible, during the meetings of the Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men (CDEG) and attends related conferences.
- For example, Status of Women Canada was represented at the 1999 conference on *Gender Mainstreaming: A Step into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, held in Athens, Greece. As a means to further discussion amongst the Council of Europe's member states, Canada highlighted its policies and experiences in mainstreaming gender into the government decision-making process.
- The Council of Europe will hold the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Equality between Men and Women June 20-21, 2002. The main theme of the conference will be *Conflict prevention and peace-building: the perspectives and the roles of women*.

## 11. METROPOLIS PROJECT

<http://www.international.metropolis.net>

- The Metropolis Project is an international forum for research and policy development on migration and the integration of immigrants in cities. The Project is composed of national and international partnerships. Canadian participation is supported financially by several federal government departments and agencies, including Status of Women Canada. One element of Canadian funding relates to research on immigration issues from a gender perspective.
- In Canada, the Project has four university-based Centres of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration. A fifth Centre is being developed and Status of Women Canada is supporting the development of a gender-based research focus within that Centre.
- The Fourth International Metropolis Conference, held in Washington D.C. in 1999, included a workshop funded and led by Status of Women Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada entitled: *Trafficking in Women: Balancing Human Rights and Criminal Justice Issues*.
- The Fifth International Metropolis Conference, held in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2000, included a workshop funded and led by Status of Women Canada entitled *Trafficking of Women and Policy Development*. SWC also participated in the Sixth International Metropolis conference in Rotterdam in October 2001.
- Status of Women Canada continues to work at the International level of Metropolis to promote gender-based research, analysis and awareness of women's particular experiences in immigration/migration. This parallels our efforts within the National Metropolis Steering Committee and conference planning.
- As a result of efforts by Status of Women Canada along with Canadian and Norwegian partners, gender chosen as a cross-cutting theme for the Seventh International Metropolis Conference in Oslo in September 2002 and as a sub-theme for concurrent workshops. SWC will host a workshop on gender mainstreaming in migration and integration policies, with an international panel looking at best practices for taking gender into account in policy, program and legislative processes for immigration or the reception of immigrants.