

CANADA AND THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION BEIJING+5

The Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China, in September of 1995, put the world spotlight on issues of concern to women. At that time, member states of the United Nations adopted a political declaration and *Platform for Action* (PFA) to accelerate progress toward equality between women and men. Governments committed themselves to action to address 12 critical and interconnected areas for action.

From June 5-9, 2000, the United Nations General Assembly is convening a special session in New York to review and assess progress in implementing the Beijing *Platform for Action* (PFA).

This review provides an opportunity for member states of the United Nations to examine how much has been achieved in the past five years. It also offers an opportunity to provide new focus and direction on what remains to be done in order to advance gender equality.

As part of the review and appraisal process, Canada responded to a standardized questionnaire, prepared by the UN, to be used as a framework to identify and assess regional and international trends and best practices in implementing the

PFA. The information gathered from responses to the questionnaire has been compiled into a UN report synthesizing trends and best practices. Other information such as statistics collected by the UN and other specialized agencies and commissions have also been considered. The final report will be submitted at the special session. Canada's response to the questionnaire is available on-line at <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/beijing5/quest-e.html>.

Canada enters the 21st century with a firm commitment to equality for women in all aspects of the social, economic and political spheres of our society. The following series of fact sheets highlight Canada's accomplishments at home and around the world in response to the 12 critical areas of concern. The fact sheets help identify, at a glance, best practices both at home and abroad, as well as innovative programs and policies undertaken by the Government of Canada to implement the PFA.

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