

**United Nations Questionnaire to Governments**  
**on Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)**  
**and the Outcome of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the**  
**General Assembly (2000)**

**For preparation of regional review and appraisals**  
**in the context of the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing**  
**Declaration and Platform for Action in 2010**

**Completed by:**

**TONGA**

**National Women's Machinery,**

**Women's Affairs, Ministry of Education, Women's Affairs and Culture**

**Friday 14 August 2009**

## **Part One**

a) Has a national policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women been adopted and at what level?

**A National Policy on Gender and Development was approved by Cabinet and launched by the Prime Minister**

Was a strategy or plan of action developed to support the implementation of the policy?

**An implementation plan for the Policy was also developed in which linked the National Strategic Development Plan, and the development of the Women's Affairs Corporate Plan and Annual Management Plans.**

What mechanisms were established for monitoring and how are different actors held accountable for its implementation?

**Through the annual reporting of the National Women's Machinery submitted to Parliament, and through quarterly reporting to the CEO on the implementation of the Corporate Plan and Annual Management Plan of the Ministry.**

**The National Policy was last reviewed in 2005 and is now due for the next one.**

Is there a national coordination mechanism at the highest level to ensure that the policy is implemented in all sector areas?

**There is the National Advisory Committee on Gender and Development, a multi sectoral committee comprising of Government and NGO representatives.**

b) What impact does the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, have on the promotion of gender equality? How is implementation of the Convention progressing?

c) What are the main legislative and policy-making achievements in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment over the past decade? Please provide details.

- **1993 Cabinet designation of the National Advisory Committee on Gender and Development – a multi stakeholder Committee comprising of Government and NGO representatives, an advisory body on women and gender issues to Cabinet) came into operation in 2000**
- **1993 Cabinet direction for the development of a National Policy on Gender and Development, was developed, submitted and approved by Cabinet and launched by the Prime Minister in 2001**
- **The Domestic Violence Unit was established in the Ministry of Police in 2007 with a ‘no drop’ policy which ensures that all charges of domestic assaults cannot be withdrawn by the victims once reported, thereby strengthen work against gender based violence;**
- **The Constitutional and Electoral Commission established in 2008 has received submissions from Civil Society and Women, which incorporates the gender perspective into the reform process.**

d) To what extent have gender perspectives and the concerns of women been taken into account in preparation of budgets at national, regional and local levels? Has this resulted in increased resources for gender equality? Describe efforts to increase and track budgetary allocations related to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women. Have gender-responsive budgeting procedures been introduced and to what effect?

**Gender perspectives and the concerns of women are always taken into account in the preparations of Government's budgets as for 2009/2010 the focus takes into account the pro poor and the vulnerable group which includes women. This is evident from the annual funds that are allocated for community development which totals to \$2million.**

**Increased resources in the budget for 2009/2010 focused on social sectors with a significant increase in the budget for health and education compared to previous years. Employees and beneficiaries for Health care and education include women and girls thus ensuring accessibility to women's health care and quality education.**

**Efforts to increase and track budgetary allocation includes government's contribution towards the only crisis centre in Tonga for the Centre for Women and Children (CWC) which continues from 2000/2001 in budget 2009/2010 through annual payments of rent for the CWC facilities of \$30k annually; The specific budget allocation for the National Women's Machinery which has been included since 1993/1994 continues to increase with the budget for 2007/2008 \$161k; and in 2008/2009 was \$169k.**

**However, no gender responsive budgeting procedures have been introduced.**

e) To what extent are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) utilized as the national framework for development? What attention is given to Goal 3 on gender equality? Is national-level data available to effectively monitor the achievement of the targets under MDG3? Are gender perspectives and the concerns of women considered in all other MDG goals?

**MDGs is utilized as the national framework for development in the National Strategic Planning Framework in the last Strategic Development Plan 8 2006 – 2009, which has concluded and is now also included the new framework Strategic Development Plan 9, which includes these objectives which is out of the seven priorities of Government in; Objectives (i) *facilitate community development by involving district/village communities in meeting their service needs;* (v) *increase performance of Technical Training Vocational Education & Training to meet the challenges of maintaining and developing services and infrastructure;* (vi) *Improve health of the people by minimizing the impact of Non-Communicable Diseases;* and (vii) *Integrate environmental sustainability and climate change into all planning and executing of programs.***

**Eg. Objective 1 is to facilitate the communities, district/villages in meeting their services needs- women group can be one of the significant group that is very important to recognize for the development of the communities.**

**MDG 3, is taken into consideration with the support and budget allocated for women's development.**

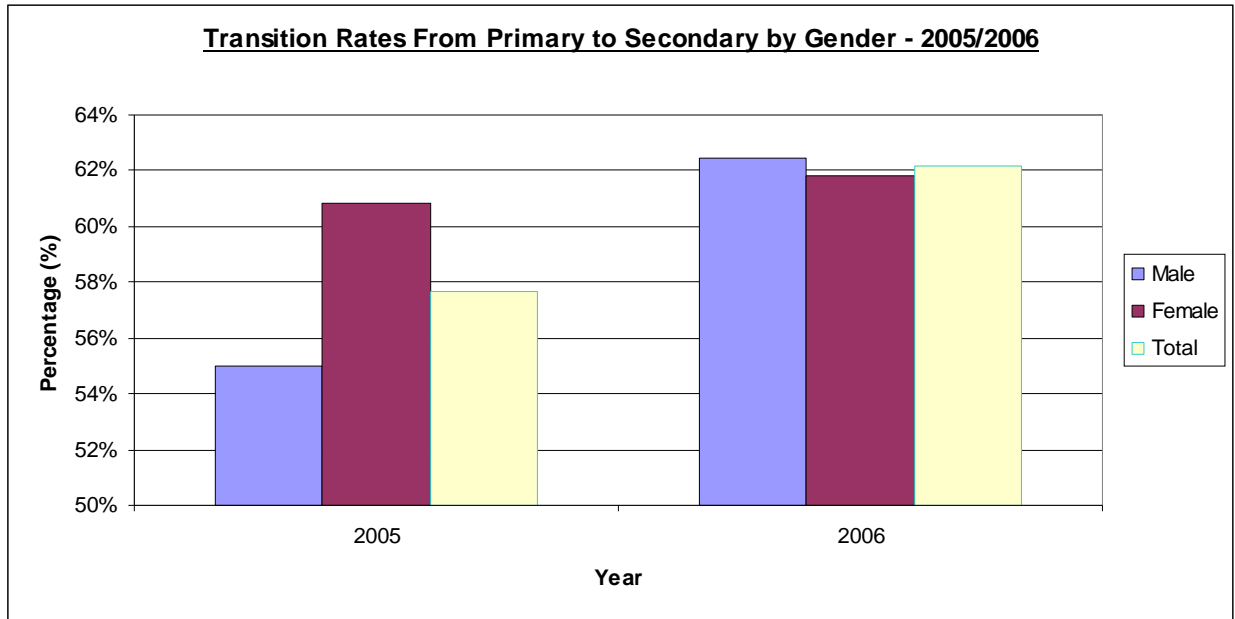
**The following data is available to monitor achievement of targets under MDG3;**

**: Ratio of girls and boys in primary, secondary and tertiary school.**

- **Ratio of girls to boys in primary school**
  - *by 2% from 1997 - 2001 and by 10% from 2001 - 2006.*
- **Ratio of girls to boys in secondary school**
  - *by 2% from 1997 - 2001 and remain unchanged in 2006*
- **Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary school**
  - *by 2% from 1997 - 2001 however in 2006, ratio of girls to boys are slightly the same.*
- **Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector**
  - *by 2.0% from 1986 to 1996 and further by 3.5% from 1996 to 2006*
- **3.3) Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament: 1 in 2005, 2 in 2006 and 2007 and 1 in 2008 and 2009**

*Where we are now:*

*The gap in Gender disparity in both primary and secondary education are starting to close up as shown below;*



**Are gender perspectives considered in all other MDG goals?**

**Employment; The share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector as of 2006 was 39.2%, an increase of 3.5% from the previous census in 1996 and finally, females have been continually represented in Parliament in the last decade and in 2007, the first female Minister was appointed, with the second one being appointed this year, 2009.**

f) Provide information on major government policy discussions and/or parliamentary debates where gender perspectives and the concerns of women have been taken systematically into account and resulted in policy and/or programmatic changes. What recent major reforms have taken place in the country where these perspectives were taken into account? What major problems are being debated in the country where the perspective of women and gender equality are considered as an integral part of the overall debate?

**In 2006, Government upgraded the National Women’s Machinery into the Ministry of Education, Women’s Affairs and Culture, previously a Unit within the Prime Minister’s Office. This re-designation established the National Women’s Machinery in the largest Ministry in Tonga, therefore opportunities for mainstreaming gender into it’s programmes like the school curriculum.**

g) In countries emerging from armed conflict, to what extent were women involved, and gender perspectives and women's concerns included, in peace negotiations and in planning of reconstruction efforts?

N/A

h) How has globalization (for example, the use of ICT, market liberalization, changes in trading patterns, etc.) affected the empowerment of women and girls and the promotion of gender equality? What efforts are being made to reduce potential risks and to build on opportunities for women?

i) In which sector areas have specific policies, strategies and/or action plans for promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment been developed and implemented? To what extent are gender perspectives and the concerns of women routinely taken into account in legislation, policy-making and programme development in other sectors, so that inequalities and gaps are identified and addressed?

**The sector areas of Education, Health, Commerce, Law, Public Service, Police and Statistics have strategies / policies / action plans for the promotion of gender and the empowerment of women. Gender perspectives and the concerns of women are taken into account when it is required and are normally sought from the National Women's Machinery, Women's Organisations or development partners.**

j) What types of significant partnerships have been established with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups, as well as the private sector and other stakeholders, in support of different aspects of national efforts on gender equality and empowerment of women – through, for example, advocacy, participation in planning, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes and service delivery?

**The NWM is technical advisor to the National Council of Women, Tonga Handicraft Association; and members of the CCM Group which coordinates the development and implementation the HIV/AIDs Strategic Development Plan, as well as different Women NGOs and Civil Society Organisations.**

k) What efforts have been made to actively engage men and boys in the promotion of gender equality, including, for example, in eliminating violence against women and combating HIV/AIDS? What successes have been achieved and what constraints have been identified?

**Male Advocates and Counselors are part of the staff of the National Centre for Women and Children (NCWC) which is the only crisis centre for women and children, and works for eliminating violence against women and children. The NCWC has a male advocacy programme which mobilizes male representatives from organizations conduct outreach and training programmes for male perpetrators and victims. The Tonga Family Health organization, also has strategies for engaging men and boys in their outreach and training programmes.**

l) What is the impact of climate change and food and energy crises on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women? What steps are being taken to reduce the potential risks for and impact on women and to engage women effectively in prevention and mitigation processes? Have social protection measures been put in place to reduce the impact on women and have measures been adopted to support women farmers?

**The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, strives to counter the food and energy crisis, by conducting trainings on; Food Safety/Food Handling, Food Processing & Value Added; To strengthen roles/involvement by women and youths in improving food and nutrition programmes, groups were identified to assist them on planting handicraft raw materials; promote plantings of traditional plants/tree-crops; nursery production and development. Further assistance for women groups on chicken, ducks, vegetables and sheep rearing, Seed Savings/Seed bank Project; Request Implementation of Livestock Projects on Small-scale basis are in the pipeline. The negative impacts on food production and consumption will increase the need for assistance in designing new financial mechanisms to enhance rural infrastructure needs;**

m) What is the impact of the financial crisis on the promotion of gender equality? What measures have been taken to reduce the negative impact on women's access to resources, income and social protection? To what extent have measures to revive growth mobilized women's economic potential?

**The current financial and economic crisis is global in its impact on the economy and society, in particular vulnerable groups including women. Areas of impact includes: food security, climate change impacts on agriculture which hinder the progress of financing women related programs and**



**reduce the flow of remittances which finances the purchase of basic necessities as well as education and some health services.**

**In previous crisis, remittances have often acted to counter the impact of economic downturns. This is not the case now when both remittances and aid flows are under pressure. Despite expressions of sympathy, developed countries have not been proactive in providing more aid when their own economies are under severe stress and global labour response standards to the economic crisis should be considered to limit the loss of revenue from remittances.**

In **Part Two** of the questionnaire, reporting States are encouraged to **provide specific examples of achievements**, including policy development, legislative change, advocacy, awareness-raising, capacity-development and programmes and projects which they have undertaken on implementation in the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action (except for critical area H which is covered in Part Three), as well as areas requiring further initiative and action identified in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. **Obstacles and remaining gaps and challenges in relation to the critical areas of concern should also be identified and a summary of lessons learned provided.** Response to Part Two of the questionnaire should be no longer than **10 pages**.

**Part Two:** Progress in implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and the further initiatives and actions identified in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (**10 pages**)

Please organize the response to this part of the questionnaire according to the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (except for critical area H which is covered in Part Three of the questionnaire).

Guiding questions: The response within each critical area of concern could address, but does not need to be limited to, the issues outlined below:

- A. Examples of successful policies, legislative change and programmes and projects
- a) In relation to the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action and other key issues, what successful actions (such as legal measures, policy reforms, media campaigns, and pilot programmes or projects) have been taken by the Government or

other actors (NGOs, civil society, the private sector) to achieve these objectives. Please provide concrete examples.

#### A. WOMEN AND POVERTY

**The National Strategic Planning Framework in the last Strategic Development Plan 8 2006 – 2009, which has concluded and is now also included the new framework Strategic Development Plan 9, which includes these objectives which is out of the seven priorities of Government in; Objectives (i) *facilitate community development by involving district/village communities in meeting their service needs*; (v) *increase performance of Technical Training Vocational Education & Training to meet the challenges of maintaining and developing services and infrastructure*; (vi) *Improve health of the people by minimizing the impact of Non-Communicable Diseases*; and (vii) *Integrate environmental sustainability and climate change into all planning and executing of programs*.**

**eg. Objective 1 is to facilitate the communities, district/villages in meeting their services needs- women group can be one of the significant group that is very important to recognize for the development of the communities.**

#### B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN

**Male and female have the same opportunity to access the Technology and Vocational Training Education like the Maritime School, Community School etc, women / girls have always had the opportunity to compete for scholarships with the current gender equality policy of participation**

#### C. WOMEN AND HEALTH

**NWM is the representative of all women's organisations at the National Country Coordinating Mechanism Committee responsible for the HIV/AIDs and STIs programme, chaired by the Minister of Health.**

**In 2009, Government approved to extend the maternity leave policy for women in the civil service from 1 month to 3 months paid maternity leave,**

#### D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**Significant partnerships include the National Advisory Committee on Gender and Development, which came into operation in 2000, a Cabinet designated multi-sectoral Committee comprising of Government and NGO representatives; for the elimination of violence against women, the National Women's Machinery chairs the Advisory Board of the National Centre for Women and Children and is a member of the Ministry of Policy Advisory Group on domestic violence.**

#### E. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

**Female officers of the Tonga Defence Services can now continue in their services within the army once they are married;**

#### F. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

**Measures to reduce the negative impact on women's access to resources, income and social protection and to revive growth mobilized women's economic potential include improving access of women to credit to develop economically viable small enterprises to sustain the well being and improvement of standards of living, with a partnership between development partners, the National Women's Machinery and the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industries, the revitalization of the strengthening by mobilization and capacity building of women and youth groups and individuals involved in small to medium enterprises.**

#### G. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

**In the beginning of 2009, the National Council of Women requested our technical assistance to facilitate developing a submission for a women's quota / reserved seats for women in Parliament. This opportunity opened up when a Constitutional and Electoral Commission was designated to receive submissions from the public for the reform of the Constitution and Electoral in Tonga.**

## H. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

- **Tonga has yet to ratify CEDAW however, the following was implemented from 2006, (1) CEDAW Legislation analysis, (2) CEDAW Information Research, (3) CEDAW national awareness raising activities, and (4) CEDAW Translation into the Tongan language.**

## I. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

**The collaborative relationship between the NWM and the Media in Tonga continues in this review period and now also maximizes utilizing the Ministry's weekly television and radio outlet as a medium for information dissemination.**

## J. WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**In collaboration with the Ministry for Environment and Climate Change recognizes that when a climate disaster strikes, the people generally hit the hardest are women. They have therefore engaged the participation of women organizations in the development of environmental plans, programmes and activities, integrated environmental/climate change issues into womens' planning and programmes, strengthen partnerships with womens' groups and ensured that there is preparedness to climate change impacts and natural disaster risk.**

## K. THE GIRL CHILD

**The following NWM has a collaborative relationship with these NGOs; the Talitha Project, a new women NGO focusing on the sexual health of pre teen, and adolescent girls; the Tonga Family Health and the National Centre for Women and Children continues their support, outreach and counseling programmes for young girls and women.**

**b) To what extent have specific commitments on the critical areas of concern – for example in terms of resource allocation, legislative change and policy and programme development - made by the Government at the Fourth World Conference on Women or in other contexts, been met?**

#### A. WOMEN AND POVERTY

Specific commitments on resource allocation, policy and programme development, is made by Government in the annual budget contribution to the operation and staffing of the NWM, and the Women's Extension in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, and \$2million for NGO projects on community development. The National Strategic Planning Framework approved in 2009 commits to; *facilitate community development by involving district/village communities in meeting their service needs; maintain and develop infrastructure to improve the everyday lives of the people.*

#### B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN

A new allocation of \$1million is allocated by Government's budget for vocational and technical training which will include girls and women. The National Strategic Planning Framework approved in 2009 commits to; *increase performance of Technical Training Vocational Education & Training to meet the challenges of maintaining and developing services and infrastructure;*

#### C. WOMEN AND HEALTH

The National Strategic Planning Framework approved in 2009 commits to; *Improve health of the people by minimizing the impact of Non-Communicable Diseases;* Government has also approved to extend the maternity leave for the women from 1 month to 3 months, which will come into effect from January 2010.

#### D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Since the year 2000, Government in the 2009/10 budget continues to support the only Crisis Centre for Women and Children in Tonga, by meeting the cost of the Office and Safe House. The NWM continues to offer support and chairs the multi sectoral Advisory Board since 2006.

#### E. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

**Female officers of the Tonga Defence Services can now continue in their services within the army once they are married.**

#### F. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

**In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Government is committed to strengthening the capacity of women in small to medium enterprises (SMEs) by capacity trainings and training of trainers. It is envisaged that these local trainers would sustain supporting the capacity of SMEs thus increasing the contribution of women to the economy.**

#### G. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

**In 2006, the first woman Minister was appointed as the Minister for Justice and Attorney General to Cabinet and in 2009, the second woman Minister was appointed as the Minister for Communication and Information. The NWM technically facilitated the National Council of Women in developing a submission for special temporary measures for quotas / reserved seats for women in Parliament. If successful, this will increase the percentage of women at the decision making level.**

#### H. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

**In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Government has approved the recruitment of a Country Focal Officer to work on policy and drafting legislation on domestic violence and other Human Rights Instruments and would include working towards the ratification of CEDAW.**

#### I. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

**Website of the NWM prepared in the last three years, will be launched this year 2009.**

## J. WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**The National Strategic Planning Framework approved in 2009 commits to; *Integrate environmental sustainability and climate change into all planning and executing of programs.***

## K. THE GIRL CHILD

**The NWM supports a new NGO for pre-teens, adolescents and girls, which advocates, trains and supports sexual and reproductive health.**

### **B. Examples of obstacles encountered and remaining gaps and challenges**

#### A. WOMEN AND POVERTY

**Obstacles; Lack of coordination at the national level on the implementation of poverty development programmes for women**

**Gaps; Lack of consultation / network with the NWM by development partners, NGOs and Civil Society Organisation**

**Challenges; Coordinating a comprehensive and holistic approach to the development of projects and implementation of programmes for all stakeholders**

#### B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN

**Obstacles; Lack of coordination at the national level on the implementation of different trainings for women, and different institutions implement the same trainings therefore a lot of duplication and waste of resources.**

**Gaps; Overall coordination of training for women and girls**



**Challenges; Overcoming the sense of competitiveness between training institutions / organisations and development partners as providers of resources and trainings on the number of trainings conducted at the national level.**

#### C. WOMEN AND HEALTH

**Obstacles; Provision of quality service to all, in the rural areas and outer islands.**

**Gaps; Appropriate service and efficient resources**

**Challenges; Ensuring a quality service is provided to patients**

#### D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**Obstacles; Cultural mindset that it is a right for men to beat their wives and children and that it happens behind every closed door**

**Gaps; Appropriate data**

**Challenges; Politically correct advocacy and outreach for the typical family, to come out and admit the VAW is a crime.**

#### E. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

**Obstacles; Cultural barrier that it is unsafe for women to be in the defence services**

**Gaps; No armed conflict in Tonga**

**Challenges; No armed conflict in Tonga**

#### F. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

**Obstacles; Lack of coordination at the national level on the implementation of poverty development programmes for women**

**Gaps; Lack of consultation / network with the NWM by development partners, NGOs and Civil Society Organisation**

**Challenges; Coordinating a comprehensive and holistic approach to the development of projects and implementation of programmes for all stakeholders**

#### G. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

**Obstacles; The traditional mindset that women' s place is in the home is still very strong to look after their husbands and children is still very strong. This is evident when Parliamentary elections are held, women don't vote for women but for men.**

**Gaps; Training and Education to influence these set mindsets that women can be decision makers.**

**Challenges; Committing Government and development partners to provide efficient resources to implement such strategies.**

H.

#### I. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

**Obstacles; The perception that human rights do not include women's rights**

**Gaps; Understanding women's rights, and merging the concept into a non threatening approach**

**Challenges; Overcoming the perception and mindset that women do not require any other rights because of their high social and cultural status in society**

#### J. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

**Obstacles; No organization has taken the issue of women's representation in the media**

**Gaps; Gender blind advertisements and perception of women**

**Challenges; Committing an organization to consider women's representation in the media**

#### K. WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Obstacles; Ensuring women's preparedness for climate change impacts and natural disaster risks**

**Gaps; Engagement of the NWM and women stakeholders in environmental plans, programmes and activities**

**Challenges; Integrating environmental / climate change issues into women's planning and programmes**

#### L. THE GIRL CHILD

**Obstacles; Firm commitment on the development of the Girl Child**

**Gaps; Research and data on the problems of the girl child victims**

## **Challenges; Acknowledging there are problems regarding the girl child**

### **C. Lessons learned**

**d) Provide information on the main lessons learned in implementation in relation to each of the critical areas of concern and other key issues identified.**

#### **A. WOMEN AND POVERTY**

##### **Lessons learned in implementation**

- **A must to conduct needs assessment surveys on what are the priority needs of women in the grassroots from women in the grassroots.**
- **Government and NGOS partnerships is critical to success in implementation of programmes**

#### **B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN**

##### **Lessons learned in implementation**

**Use of the vernacular language is very critical and contextualizing concepts just as important when conducting training and programmes; use of good practices at the national level and regional level whichever is available.**

#### **C. WOMEN AND HEALTH**

##### **Lessons learned in implementation**

**Confidentiality in the provision and conduct of sensitive topics and programmes is important.**

D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**Lessons learned in implementation**

**Confidentiality in the provision and conduct of sensitive topics and programmes is important to victims as well as for the collection of data.**

E. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

**Lessons learned in implementation**

N/A

F. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

**Lessons learned in implementation**

**Maximize partnerships for surveys and needs assessment studies, and for conduct of trainings to avoid duplication of effort and save resources.**

G. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

**Lessons learned in implementation**

**Use influential and respected women, former women Parliamentarians, successful business women and decision makers, in advocating for increasing women at the decision making level.**

H.

## I. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

### **Lessons learned in implementation**

**The message is as important as the messenger so important to keep a good relationship with all stakeholders and use leaders / trainers of good reputation to implement the programmes**

## J. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

### **Lessons learned in implementation**

**A good relationship with the media is crucial for the positive depiction of women and for them to “hear” constructive criticism**

## K. WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

### **Lessons learned in implementation**

**Partnership with all stakeholders (Government / NGO/Women) to plan and implement strategies to counter climate change and environment crisis**

## L. THE GIRL CHILD

### **Lessons learned in implementation**

**Need collaboration with Government and relevant NGO Stakeholders to maximize and strengthen capacity and outreach in implementing programmes and activities.**

**e) Provide concrete examples of successful interventions and explain why these were judged to be successful? Describe any effort to replicate these efforts.**

#### A. WOMEN AND POVERTY

**Partnerships between the NWM with women NGOs to conduct capacity building trainings for women in the outer islands quite successful. This strategy will continue in the future.**

#### B. EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN

**Focusing on including the youth in projects and programmes sustains the programme and ensures the continuation of programmes and activities.**

#### C. WOMEN AND HEALTH

**Women's reproductive health programme and immunization for children is one of the best in the region with its wide coverage. This is due to home to home visits to new mothers and for the immunization of infants – children.**

#### D. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**Partnership between the Ministry of Police, the National Centre for Women and Children, relevant Government Ministries and NGOs have addressed the issue of Violence Against Women as a national issue with the involvement of these proactive organizations. It has brought the issue to the forefront and is now considered as no longer an issue not to be discussed in public.**

#### E. WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT

**N/A**

#### F. WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY

**Revival of women in business has come about due to the involvement of young stakeholders, proving that there needs to be sustainability and succession plans for programmes to increase women's participation in the economy.**

#### G. WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING

**The NWM technically facilitating a submission from the National Council of Women, to the Constitutional and Electoral Reform Committee for quotas / reserved seats for women. Even though the results have not come through, the collaborative effort and support of leaders of women's groups was tremendous. Successful was ensuring a wide sectoral consultation of women.**

H.

#### I. HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

**Involving, training women in Human Rights organizations on gender perspectives and the rights of women. Successful interventions as these women can work from inside the organizations to push the human rights of women. Training and advocating the spouses of influential and leaders is another successful intervention on this.**

#### J. WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

**Keeping a good relationship and the news flowing to the media would ensure women's issues (negative or positive) are reflected in the media.**

#### K. WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**When the woman in the home is ready for environmental and climate change crisis, the family survives This was recognized by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to involve women stakeholders in development plans, and strategies to prepare for climate change and environment crisis.**



L. THE GIRL CHILD

**Engage young women / girl child in work on addressing, counseling for the girl child. It will create a conducive environment for the support and assistance that the Girl Child requires.**

**Part Three** focuses on institutional development or those structures and measures countries have put in place to support promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. It covers the critical area of concern H in the Platform for Action: Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, and chapters V on Institutional Arrangements and VI on Financial Arrangements, as well as actions identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Information on national machineries, capacity-building programmes for line ministries, resource allocation, statistics and indicators, monitoring and accountability mechanisms and partnerships should be described in this section. Responses to Part Three of the questionnaire should be four pages in length.

### **Part Three: Institutional development (4 Pages)**

Guiding questions: The response could address, but does not need to be limited to, the issues outlined below:

a) What national mechanisms exist for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women – for example, ministry, national commission, parliamentary committee or commission? What mandates and resources does each body have and have these increased in the review period? How do these bodies work together? Describe the location of the national mechanisms and the access to decision-making processes. What networks have been established and how effective are these networks? What resources do the national mechanisms have in terms of staff and financial support? What percentage of financial resources comes from international or bilateral donors or other external sources?

**-National Machinery for Women's Affairs is the Ministry of Education, Women's Affairs and Culture. Currently staff and resources are fully funded by Government.**

**-National Advisory Committee on Gender and Development (NACGAD)**

**Mandate: To coordinate issues of special concern to women at the national, regional and international level.**

**Roles / Functions: A multi sectoral Committee consisting of Government representatives and NGO sector**

**Structure: Chaired by the Minister for Education, Women's Affairs and Culture. Membership includes Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet, Director of Planning, Secretary for Finance, Director of Agriculture and Forests, Secretary for Labour, Commerce and Industries,**

**Representative from the National Council of Women, Representative from the Tonga Association of NGOs, Representative from the Youth Congress.**

**NACGD representatives are currently under review.**

**Location: Secretariat is located with the Women's Affairs, Ministry of Education, Women's Affairs and Culture.**

**Resources:- Secretariat and financial support by Government through the Women's Affairs, Ministry of Education, Women's Affairs and Culture, the National Machinery for Women's Affairs.**

b) Have focal points for gender equality and empowerment of women been established within line ministries, and in which ministries? What support is provided from within the ministries? What support (training, advice, etc.) is provided by the national machinery?

How effective are these focal points?

**Focal points established as in membership of NACGAD and in addition, Crown Law Department, Statistics Department, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and Public Services Commissions. NWM provides any information they request and vice versa.**

c) What monitoring mechanisms have been established to measure progress in implementation – in relation to national policies, strategies and action plans as well as international commitments? How is accountability for promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women established across all ministries? How is coordination achieved?

What role does the highest level of Government play?

**Through the National Advisory Committee on Gender and Development and the reporting of the National Women's Machinery.**

d) What levels of capacity for promoting gender mainstreaming have been achieved? Through which mechanisms? What are the remaining challenges in the area of capacity-building?

**Heads of Ministries and Departments, NGOs and Civil Society Organisations. Remaining challenges are the retraining of gender focal points because of the high level of staff turnover. Succession plans for gender focal points is still a challenge.**

e) Has a core set of indicators been established and where is responsibility for monitoring located? What gaps and challenges remain in relation to data and statistics? In which areas is lack of sex-disaggregation still a problem? In which areas do new types of data need to be collected? To what extent are the national statistical office and the statistical units in line ministries aware, committed and capable of providing the required data? In which sectors, and to what extent, is sex-disaggregated data being used effectively to inform policy-making and planning?

**Development of gender indicators is still in progress and availability of data and statistics remain a challenge for measuring gender and women's progress. The last Census was conducted in 2006, and the Statistics Department provide gender disaggregated data when requested.**

f) Provide information on the roles of different stakeholders. For example, what role does Parliament play in the promotion and monitoring of gender equality and women's empowerment? How could this role be strengthened? Describe the role of NGOs in planning and implementing the follow-up activities. Do NGOs participate formally in the mechanisms established to follow up the Fourth World Conference on Women and support reporting on and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)?

**As the national focal point for women and gender, the National Women's Machinery leads in the development of women. Roles of different stakeholders (Government and NGOs) collaborate with the NWM to implement programmes and activities pertaining to the Fourth World Conference on Women.**

**The role of NGOs in planning and implementing is usually done in collaboration with the NWM or and with Development Partners.**

In Part Four, respondents are invited to provide information on the remaining key challenges and constraints in the reporting States, as well as any plans for future actions and initiatives to address these and to ensure full implementation of the Platform for Action in each of the critical areas of concern. Reporting States are encouraged, in particular, to indicate any new commitments they will make to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at national level over the next five years. Responses to Part Four of the questionnaire should be no longer than three pages.

Part Four: Remaining challenges and actions to address them (3 pages)

Provide information on areas requiring future action.

a) List any further actions and initiatives which the Government intends to take to fully implement the Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly beyond 2010.

**With the National Advisory Committee on Gender and development back in operation and the upgrade of the NWM into a full fledged Ministry, it is envisaged that these actions and initiatives will increase the implementation of the BPA and outcome of UNGASS**

b) Describe the priority areas that have been identified for improving implementation in the next five years.

**As listed in the National Strategic Planning Framework;**

***(i) facilitate community development by involving district/village communities in meeting their service needs;***

***(ii) support the private sector through better engagement with government, appropriate incentives and streamlining of rules and regulations;***

***(iv) maintain and develop infrastructure to improve the everyday lives of the people;***

*(v) increase performance of Technical Training Vocational Education & Training to meet the challenges of maintaining and developing services and infrastructure;*

*(vi) Improve health of the people by minimizing the impact of Non-Communicable Diseases; and*

*(vii) Integrate environmental sustainability*

c) Give examples of measures (with targets and timeframes) which will be taken in each of these areas.

**The timeframe for implementation will be from 2009 – 2011 of the above National Strategic Development Plan.**

d) Outline explicit new commitments that will be made to accelerate implementation.

**Areas on;**

**WOMEN AND POVERTY**

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**WOMEN AND THE ECONOMY**

**WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION MAKING**

**INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

**HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN**

**WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**THE GIRL CHILD**