



**26 February 2015**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this presentation is to brief members of the Multi- Party Women's Caucus about developments that culminated to today's session.

## 2. BACKGROUND

The Multi Party Women's Caucus steering committee held a meeting on 10 February 2015. There were certain resolutions taken during this steering committee meeting. The agenda items included the following items:

- South Africa's compliance to international and regional treaties and conventions as well as an obligation for reviewing and reporting.
- Abducted Nigerian girls.

### 2.1 Compliance to international and regional treaties

The Republic of South Africa has ratified and is signatory to a number of regional and international treaties. The ratification and signing of these treaties obligates Member States to periodically submit reports on compliance as well as on measures adopted by each State to give effect to the provision of the Conventions. The following are some of the treaties which the country has ratified and is signatory to:

- Beijing Declaration and platform of Action
- SADC Declaration on Gender and Development
- United Nations Convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW)
- African Charter on Human and People's Rights on Rights of Women
- Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa

On 9-20 March 2015, the United Nations Commission on Status of Women will be hosting its 59<sup>th</sup> session in New York. South Africa as a Member State is expected to have submitted a South Africa Beijing +20 report detailing achievements, progress and challenges encountered in promoting gender equality and women empowerment in the country. In South Africa the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE) and the Ministry in Presidency responsible for Women are the two state organs mandated to facilitate, monitor and report on compliance to national; regional and international instruments related to gender equality and women empowerment programmes.

It was on the above premises that a resolution was made to invite both the Ministry for Women and CGE to brief the Caucus on 25 February 2015 about South Africa's Beijing +20 report for the 59<sup>th</sup> session in New York.

In the process of inviting these two stakeholders, it was discovered that the Ministry for Women had submitted a Beijing +20 report to United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on 30 June 2014 in preparation for the UN CSW 59<sup>th</sup> session in New York. On these findings, the Ministry for Women through its PLO was contacted to confirm whether the report was the official country report. The feedback received from the Ministry's PLO was that the report was submitted without proper consultation and had to be recalled and a new report was being prepared and with final approval by Cabinet expected on 04 March 2015. It also came to light that the Portfolio Committee for Women had successfully organised a session with both the Ministry for Women and the CGE about CEDAW and Beijing + 20 reports and the session is scheduled for 03 March 2015. The PC committee for Women had voiced willingness to share this session with Caucus.

These discoveries then necessitated change of plans, because the Ministry for Women would not have been in position to present and brief the caucus about the official South Africa Beijing+20 report on 25 February 2015. On presenting these developments to the Chairperson of the MPWC on 18 February 2015, the Honourable Chairperson of MPWC advised on inviting CGE for a meeting to be held on 04 March 2015 to brief the Caucus about SADC protocol as the 37<sup>th</sup> plenary session for SADC PF is scheduled for June 2015. On the 36<sup>th</sup> plenary session it was resolved that the South African Multi Party Women's Caucus would spearhead the process in South Africa by collaborating with all institutions in tracking the implementation, and also would consult with all relevant stakeholders on the targets and indicators for the post 2015 SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The Chairperson, Honourable Morutoa advised on inviting the CGE to brief the Caucus about the implementation of SADC Protocol.

Since the deadline for approval by Cabinet of the South Africa Beijing +20 report is on 04 March 2015, the Chairperson of MPWC suggested that the Ministry for Women should be requested to provide the Caucus with the copy of the approved official South Africa country report. This is to allow Caucus members and delegation to New York to familiarise themselves with the contents of the country report, as well as status of the country.

## 2.2 #Bring back the girls campaign

During the steering committee meeting held on 10 February 2015, it was resolved that the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation would be invited to address the MPWC about the current status of the abducted Nigerian girls and South Africa's stance on the campaign. It was also resolved that the Minister would also be asked to also mark and talk about the international women's day which is on the 08 March 2015. The Minister of International Relations and Cooperation was to be invited for the week after the 08 March 2015, as it falls on a Sunday. The Chairperson of the Caucus felt that the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation must be invited to attend the meeting scheduled for 04 March 2015.

### 3. KEY POINTS AND ISSUES TO CONSIDER

#### 3.1 SADC PROTOCOL ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was adopted in 2008. The Protocol is premised on human rights approach in achieving gender equality in all Member states. The Protocol has a set of specific targets related to gender and women empowerment that are supposed to be attained by each Member State and 2015 is the targeted time frame for attainment of targets.

The following table depicts the main provisions of the Protocol as well as specific targets to have been achieved by Republic of South Africa are by 2015.

Main Provisions	Specific targets	SADC article
Constitutional and legal rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Repeal, amend and review laws discriminating to women</li><li>• Abolish minority status of women</li><li>• Introduction of programmes and actions aimed at achieving gender equality in terms of marriage; family rights; access to justice including traditional courts</li></ul>	Article 4-8
People with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health, welfare, access</li><li>• Consideration of vulnerabilities faced by people with disabilities</li></ul>	Article 9
Widows and widowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Right to maternal home after death of husband</li><li>• Full guardianship of children</li><li>• Equitable share in inheritance</li><li>• Remarrying a person of choice</li></ul>	Article 10
Girl and boy child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elimination of harmful cultural and religious practises against girl and boy children</li></ul>	Article 11
Representation and Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equal representation of women in all areas of decision making</li><li>• Adoption of policies and strategies to ensure effective participation of women</li></ul>	Article 12-13
Gender equality in education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enact laws that promote equal access and retention in schools</li><li>• Adoption and implementation of gender sensitive educational policies and programmes</li><li>• Challenging of stereotypes against women in education</li></ul>	Article 14
Productive resources and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equal participation of women in economic policy formulation</li><li>• Economic empowerment</li><li>• Access to property and resources</li><li>• Equal access to employment and benefits</li></ul>	Article 15-19

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduction of time-use studies on multiple roles of women in order to facilitate the adoption of policy measures to ease the burden on women</li> </ul>	
Gender based violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation and enforcement of all laws aimed at eliminating gender based violence</li> <li>• Provision of post assault treatment and care of survivors</li> <li>• Adoption of laws to prevent human trafficking</li> <li>• Adoption and enforcement of legislation prohibiting sexual harassment</li> <li>• Provision for integration of approaches in dealing with GBV</li> </ul>	Article 20-25
Health and HIV/Aids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of maternal mortality by 75%,</li> <li>• Prevention; treatment, care and support for people infected and affected by HIV/Aids</li> <li>• Develop and implementation of legislation to address the mental; sexual and reproductive health needs of women and men</li> <li>• Provision of hygiene and sanitary facilities for women include those incarceration</li> </ul>	Article 26-27
Peace building and conflict resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elimination of all human rights abuses against women and children during times of armed conflict</li> <li>• Put in place measures to ensure that women have equal representation and participation in key decision making positions in conflict resolution and peace building processes.</li> </ul>	Article 28
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure equal representation of women in ownership and decision making structures of the media.</li> <li>• To ensure that the content of programmes is not degrading to women</li> <li>• Freedom of expression for women</li> </ul>	Article 29-31
Remedies; Financial provision; Implementation, monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for gender sensitive budgets and resource allocations.</li> <li>• Development of policies, norms and standards</li> <li>• Submission of Country progress reports</li> </ul>	Article 32-36

### 3.2 Key issues to note with regards to the report by CGE on compliance with SADC protocol requirements

- Areas where notable progress has been made by RSA in achieving SADC protocol targets.
- What are the remaining obstacles.
- Possible reasons for not achieving targets.
- The role of CGE in addressing the remaining obstacles.
- What concrete steps need to be taken to ensure compliance with international; regional and domestic legislation.
- Stakeholder's involvement and collaboration.
- Suggestions for Post 2015 agenda

## **4. CONCLUSION**

One of the mandates of the MPWC is to promote, lobby and advocate for issues affecting women both within and outside the Parliament and in order to fully achieve that mandate, the Caucus has to be keep abreast of developments in relation to gender equality and women empowerment programmes within and outside the country. It was also on this premise this session was organised and these two important stakeholders were invited.

Compiled by: Mpapela T

Designation: Content Advisor MPWC

Contact: 021: 4038726

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- SADC PROTOCOL ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT(2008)
- [www.sadc.int/doc-publication/show-](http://www.sadc.int/doc-publication/show-) accessed on 26 February 2015
- [www.gendelinks.org.za-](http://www.gendelinks.org.za-) accessed on 26 February 2015
- [www.women.gov.za-](http://www.women.gov.za-) accessed 25 February 2015
- Mr D. Sambamba (Ministry of Women PLO)—email on 15 February 2015