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**November 2019**

**SUMMARY OF INPUTS FROM MEMBERS OF MPWC IN RELATION TO FOCUS AREAS**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Steering Committee of the Multi- Party Women’s Caucus (MPWC) has identified focus areas for adoption and implementation by the sixth MPWC. In order to foster unity and inclusion, the Steering Committee afforded the Members of the MPWC an opportunity to make inputs and proposals on the suggested focus areas.

1. **SUGGESTED FOCUS AREAS**

The following are the focus areas that the Steering Committee has identified and proposed for implementation by the MPWC:

* Gender based violence and femicide
* Strengthening of national gender machinery
* Gender responsive planning and budgeting
* Sanitary dignity
* Women and health
* Women in politics
* Decriminalisation of sex work
* Building relations with stakeholders.

1. **INPUTS FROM MEMBERS OF MPWC**

In response to the request for inputs in relation to the suggested focus areas, Members of the MPWC proposed as follows:

* 1. In support of the suggested focus areas

The majority of inputs received are in support of all the focus areas as suggested by the Steering Committee and the inputs are additions and enhancements to the activities of the suggested focus areas.

* 1. Not in support of some suggested focus areas

Three inputs received are not in support of the decriminalisation of sex work as a focus area for the MPWC. Two of those are of the view that it should not be a focus area, while one input suggested that decriminalisation of sex work should rather be referred to PC for SAPS and PC for Justice and Correctional Services for further consideration.

* 1. Additional focus areas proposed by Members of the MPWC

The inputs from Members also included proposal for additional focus areas for implementation by the MPWC as follows:

* Focus to include persons from the LGBTQIA+
* Focus to include programmes aimed at reducing the burden of reproductive work
* Focus on environmental issues
* Focus on social cohesion and national building
* Focus on economic empowerment of women
* Focus to include programmes aimed at ensuring equal pay and recognition of unpaid care work
* Focus on plight of domestic workers and farm workers
  1. Focus to be on fewer areas.

There is also a proposal to focus on three areas only which are gender based violence and femicide, decriminalisation of sex work and sanitary dignity.

* 1. Annual reviews of focus areas

A number of inputs are proposing that focus areas should be reviewed annually to ensure relevance and/ to track progress.

1. **CONCLUSION**

The Members of the MPWC were afforded adequate time to submit inputs in relation to the focus areas and ten (10) inputs were received.