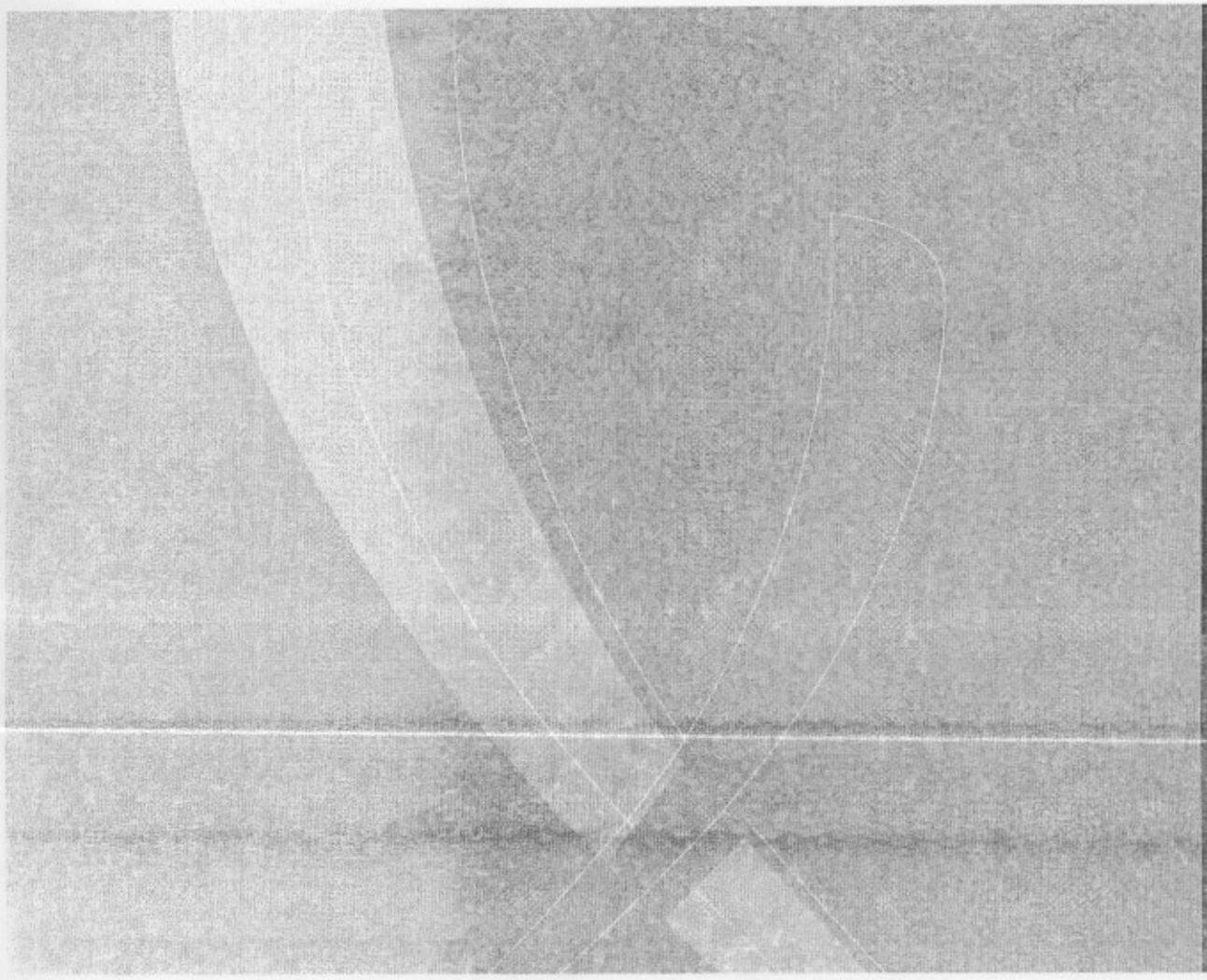
PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SELECT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Briefing and Information Session

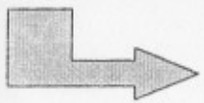
Research Unit

7 August 2009

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

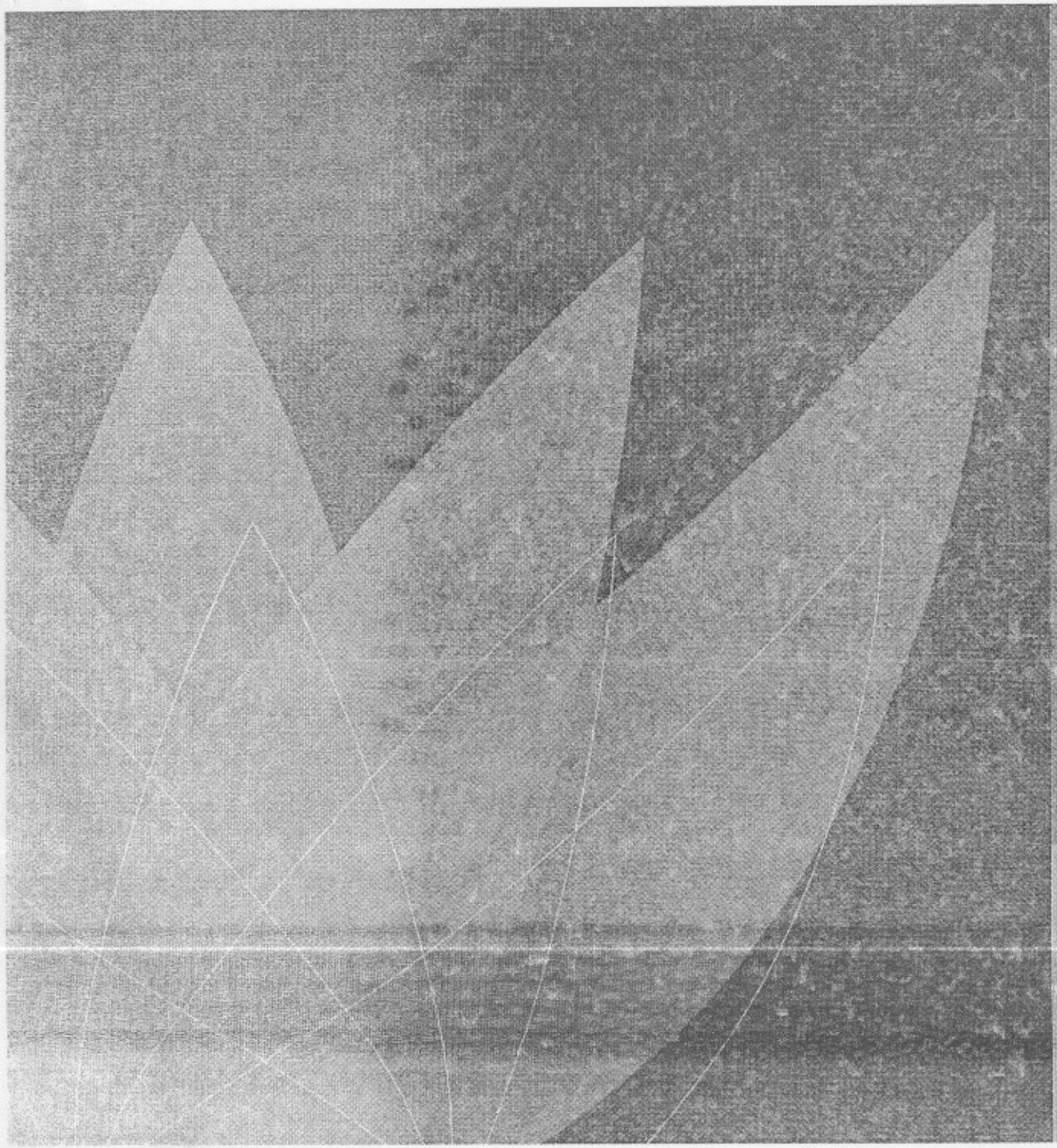
Delivery Priorities for Committee

- Monitor and ensure that relative policies and programmes are implemented in all Ministries and Departments,
- Monitor all legislation including the Budget for compliance with international commitments,
- Monitor all Ministries and Departments to ensure that they have mainstreamed gender/child/disability/elderly? in all their programmes and budgets.



Oversight, Monitoring and Evaluation Role of committee is important:

- To ensure that the rights of socially vulnerable groups are considered and prioritised in all legislation, policies and programmes
- Appropriate budgets are allocated for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of legislation, policies and programmes
- To improve the quality of life and status of socially vulnerable groups across the social and racial spectrum in South Africa



WOMEN

Key Challenges facing Women and Implications for the Committee

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POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Key Policy and Legislation Issues for the Committee to engage with:

POLICY	LEGISLATION		
	Passed (Implementation, Monitoring & Evaluation needed)	**In Process**	**To be considered**
National Gender Policy Framework ↓ NB – i.t.o concept paper for Ministry it has been proposed that policy framework be elevated to an Act.	•Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act) [No.32 of 2007]	•Traditional Courts Bill [B15-2008] ↓ NB – JMC on Women has made submission to PC on Justice and there will possibly be a joint venture between the 2 committees i.t.o. public hearings.	•Reform of Customary Law of Succession and Regulation of Related Matters Bill [B10-2008]
	•Domestic Violence Act [No. 116 of 1998]		•Draft Domestic Partnerships Bill
			•Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

SA is signatory to and has ratified a number of international tools promoting gender equality and the protection of women's rights

International Commitment	Key Provisions/ Targets	Status & Prioritisation	
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	•Ensuring and facilitating women's political, social and economic equality in society	•Combined 2nd, 3rd & 4th Country Report submitted 2009 •Next Country Report due 2013	Urgent Priority
SADC Protocol on Gender and Development	•Ensuring that provisions for gender equality are contained in all constitutions •Halving gender violence •Abolishing the legal minority status of women •Achieving 50% representation of women in decision-making positions by 2015	•Country progress report due end 2010	Urgent Priority SA has signed in Sept. 2008 but not ratified as it was recommended to wait for 4th Parliament to ratify.
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	•Framework for monitoring human socio-economic development and progress – gender equality vital to development & progress •Goal 3: Promoting gender equality •Goal 5: Improving maternal health	•Targets to be met by 2014	
Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA)	•Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women •Create or strengthen national machineries and other govt. bodies •Integration of gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects •Generation and dissemination of gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation		
The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women	Serves to enhance the quality of women's lives and to eliminate systemic gender imbalances	States required to submit progress and implementation reports every 2years in accordance with Article 62 of African Charter	Entry into force 25 Nov 2005. Reports required every 2 years. Not clear if report was submitted in 2007. Report due this year?

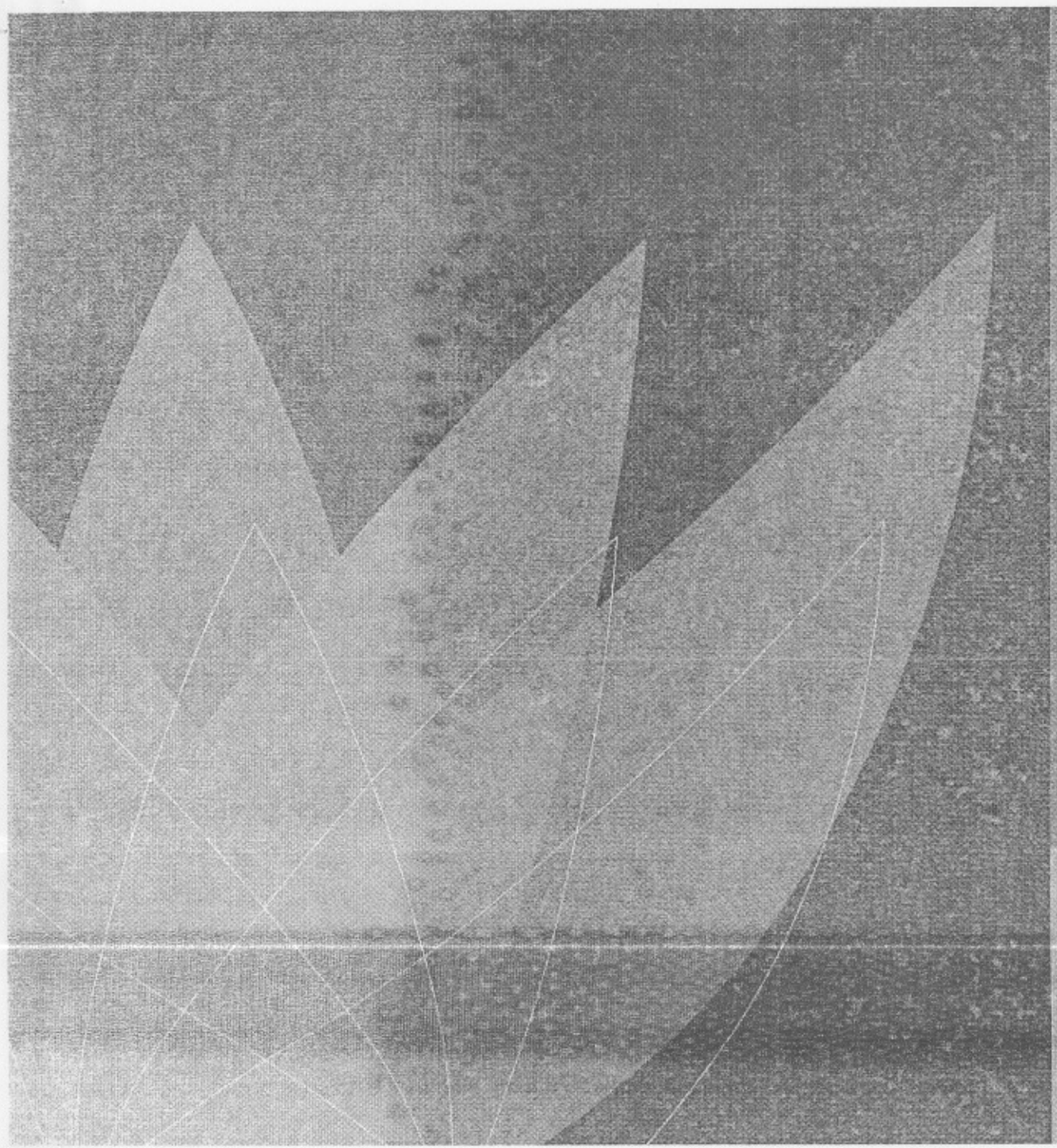
KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE DURING THE 4TH PARLIAMENT

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

- Creation and Functioning of Ministry on Women, Children and Persons with disabilities and the Elderly
- Monitoring the implementation of legislation and monitoring and evaluation of targeted policies and strategies
- National Gender Machinery
- Reporting and implementation

VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA

- Violence against Women
- Economic Empowerment and Skills Development
- Access to Services
- Poverty eradication
- Health – quality of care, high rates of maternal mortality, HIV and AIDS



CHILDREN & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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