

## **UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 58/143 and 58/185**

#### **Overview**

The Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children, promotes among others the rights of women and children in the country. The Gender Machinery has been responsible for policy formulation of activities through the normal government structures. In its effort to bring about gender equality, the Government has in place the National Development Vision 2025 which among other things analyses the poverty situation by gender and emphasizes on the importance of accessibility and affordability of social services. Plans have been prepared to realize the Vision 2025 which include among others, the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) which identifies gender as crosscutting in all sectors. There is also a Women and Gender Development Policy which was adopted in 2000, having been reviewed from the Women in Development Policy of 1992. The Policy provides for women empowerment by giving more opportunities to women in all spheres including politics, leadership positions, management and economic development. Alongside with these initiatives, there have been efforts to protect and promote rights and welfare of women.

#### **National Efforts to Protect and Promote Rights and Welfare of Women as an effort to implement Resolution 58/143 and 58/185**

Tanzania is signatory to the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights which stresses that each person is equal before the law and has equal rights in the distribution of resources and social services. It also believes in the equality and rights of each person as enshrined in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania 1977 as amended in 1984 and 2000. The Constitution emphasizes the equality of each person, respect for each person's humanity and right to justice before the law. Implicitly, it safeguards gender freedom, security of life, right to ownership of property and productive resources.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has also ratified the Optional Protocol of CEDAW in February 2004, which provides for an enabling environment for women to seek justice in the CEDAW Committee. The Government is also a signatory to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and its Optional Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. The Protocol was adopted on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2003, at the Second summit of the African Union in Maputo Mozambique, the Protocol among others requires African Governments to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women in Africa and to promote equality between women and men.

Moreover, Tanzania is signatory to the SADC Declaration on Gender Development (1977) and the Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children 1998. The Addendum to the Declaration is a commitment to the prevention and eradication of violence against women and children. In its efforts to implement the Conventions, Tanzania established the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance in 2001. The Commission investigates allegations involving violations of human rights. In 2004, the Commission established a special desk to deal with public education and women rights in the country.

### **Strengthening and Preventive Action Including Awareness Raising Initiatives**

As specified by the Secretary General's information letter on the implementation of the resolutions, measures taken include: -

- The First Summit of Heads of State and Government on the Greats Lakes Region (GLR) was held on 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2004. Heads of State signed a Declaration towards peace, security, stability and development. They also adopted policy options and guiding principles of peace and security.

- Putting in place a National Plan of Action (2001) to combat violence against women and children. The plan which has been disseminated to stakeholders, provides for strategies and activities to be implemented by various stakeholders.
- The Parliament enacted the Refugees Act (1998) that provides a legal framework for assisting and protecting refugees. The Act provides for availability of essential services and amenities to the refugee community. Among others, the law protects women from violent acts.
- As for education, the Refugee Act (1998) requires that every refugee be provided with education in accordance with the National Education Act 1978. Programmes catering for refugee needs (water, health and education) are implemented in designated areas or centres for refugees. The refugee community, particularly women, have been actively engaged in productive activities that have enabled them to resettle in refugee camps.
- To ensure peace and tranquility, the Government, with the UN, in collaboration with NGOs continue to provide protection, assistance and training on peacekeeping and conflict resolutions.
- The Government continuation continued to intensify the efforts to review, amend or enact legislation and policies in accordance with CEDAW Committee recommendation. During the review period, the Government enacted laws pertaining to women's dignity, property, criminal and sexual abuse. One of these Acts is the Sexual Offences (Special Provisions) Act 1998 was enacted to protect the dignity and integrity of women and children. Awareness creation and sensitisation of women and men on this law, has brought some changes whereby women and men go to court for their rights, while stiff sentences are given to culprits to warn other against breaching the law.
- The NGO Policy was established to provide for an effective means of collaboration between the Government and NGOs among others, on issues related to gender equality.

- Translation and dissemination of legal information such as the CEDAW, Land Act No.4 and the Village Land Act No. 5 of 1999 into a user-friendly language and establishment of Legal aid and counselling centres have increased general public's legal awareness and have stimulated debates on different legal frameworks for the rights and obligations of each member of the society.

### **Development of National data collection methodologies on violence against women**

- As far as the National data collection methodologies on violence against women is concerned, reported cases of women on rape, harassment, battering, sodomy and killings are recorded by Tanzania Police Forces.
- There are crises and counselling centres which have been established by Civil Societies for counselling survivors of sexual and gender based violence. Data is collected.
- The Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children, has Women's Information Centre where data on women on various issues including violence is recorded.
- The Government has established Bureau of Statistics where various issues are recorded.

### **International Instruments**

Today, a number of steps have been taken towards adherence to international instruments. These instruments are the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights, (1948), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979) Beijing Declaration and Platforms for Action (1995), the African Charter on the Human rights and Peoples rights and its Optional Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, SADC Declaration on Gender and Development (1997). These instruments reaffirm our commitment to the prevention and eradication of violence against women and children in Tanzania.