

## 5. THE CONVENTION AND NATIONAL PLANNING

In compiling the Report on what has been done to implement and give effect to the **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**, as required by the Convention itself, it is thus necessary for the Government to collect information on a wide range of issues related to the status of women within the country concerned. The Report is, therefore, the most comprehensive survey available on the role and status of women within a particular country.

As the Report is an official Government report it will not only be of relevance to the members of CEDAW in assessing the implementation of the **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**, it will also be of use to the Government itself. It should not merely be forwarded to the United Nations, but should be used at the national level in national planning, and as a tool in improving the status of women and in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. If the Report has been prepared within the framework requested by CEDAW, it should include information on legal and other measures in force with regard to each provision of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**, information on developments which have taken place, information on restrictions or limitations to the enjoyment of the rights, and other information on progress made in fulfilling the rights. In addition, the Report should identify obstacles which remain to be overcome in order to implement the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**.

As the information in the Report addresses all key areas of activity related to the advancement of women - civil and family law, employment, health, education, and participation of women in public life and in decision-making positions - it provides a good basis for future planning within the country concerned. This is particularly so as Reports should be prepared for CEDAW every four years.

This 'four year cycle' in the Reporting system can therefore provide a 'rolling plan' for planning at the national level. It is necessary for Governments to include the four-yearly Reports in their planning cycle, using it as a system to monitor the removal of existing obstacles. As the Reporting system requires statistical information, this can become part of national planning.

### 5.1 USING THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN TO MONITOR THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

The Reporting system for the **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women** can, further, be used as the basis for monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women since many of the Articles of the Convention directly refer to the areas included in the Strategies, e.g. political participation of women, employment, education and health. While the United Nations system may require reports on progress achieved to date on the Strategies at specified times between now and the year 2000, the ongoing collection of data on the implementation of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women** can easily provide the basis for such reports.

## 5.2 PUBLICISING THE REPORT

Publicising the Report serves both to educate women at large about the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and to inform them of the progress made to date in its implementation. Since the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women should be considered as a means to assist the national Government in achieving equality for women, providing information on what has been achieved should strengthen the partnership between Government and women and women's organisations in eliminating discrimination.