

## **The Mandate of the Division**

The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) is part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) within the United Nations Secretariat. The Division is responsible for servicing the Commission on the Status of Women, one of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). As part of its support to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Division organizes Expert Group Meetings on the thematic issues addressed by the Commission during its annual sessions.

A key role for the Division is facilitating the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission and the CEDAW Committee.

The Division has a small programme of technical assistance which focuses on capacity-building of Member States to implement policy commitments and legal obligations, in particular in relation to implementation of CEDAW. Support has also been provided to national machineries for the advancement of women and to women parliamentarians. Through capacity-building for women leaders, as well as activities on enhancing the implementation of CEDAW, the Division has also focused on countries emerging from conflict.

The Division produces a flagship report: the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development*, every five years. The 1999 report focused on globalization, gender; and the 2004 report covers international migration. The Division also produces a publication series *Women 2000 and Beyond*. Recent numbers have covered widows, nationality and citizenship, natural disasters, water and ICT.

The Division promotes and supports gender mainstreaming in the work of the Secretariat through providing advice on request, undertaking projects collaboratively, providing competence development, and helping to develop materials on gender equality.

## **Some Recent Activities Related to the Millennium Development Goals**

In early 2005, the Division organized an expert group meeting on “*Achievements, Gaps and Challenges in the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals*”. The experts emphasized the need for the application of a human rights framework in the implementation of the Platform for Action, the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs, in particular by ensuring enhanced linkages with the CEDAW Convention.

The meeting recommended increased efforts to integrate gender perspectives into macro-economic frameworks and poverty reduction strategies; ensure the participation of women in decision-making; strengthen monitoring and accountability; provide adequate resources; and support quick-win interventions, including in the area of sexual and reproductive rights.

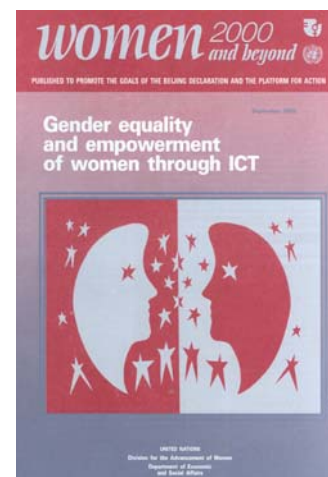
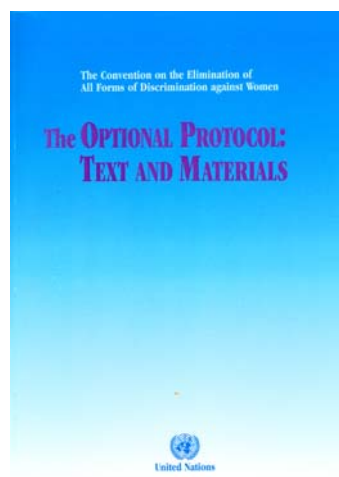
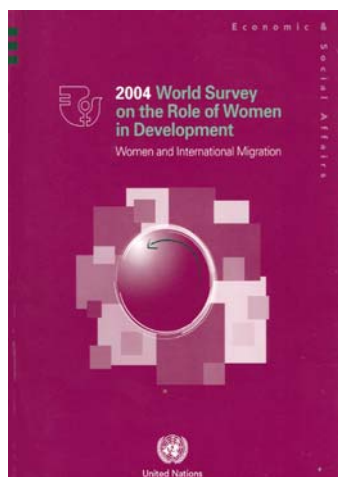
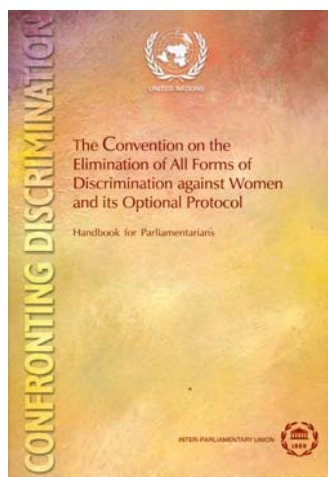
The Division organized a panel discussion during the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the linkages between the implementation of the Platform for Action and the internationally agreed development goals, including those in the Millennium Declaration. Participants stressed that reaching the MDGs would contribute to achieving the commitments in the Platform for Action. As well as recommending efforts to achieve MDG3, they called for integration of gender perspectives into the implementation of all other goals. The importance of CEDAW and a rights-based approach was also underscored. Political commitment, adequate resources, institutional and structural change, enhanced technical capacity and tools for gender mainstreaming, and increased monitoring and accountability were identified as crucial for implementation.

The Division was represented on the United Nations Millennium Project Taskforce Three on Education and Gender Equality, and participated in the preparation of the report “*Taking action: achieving gender equality and empowering women*” (2005). Issues of concern that were highlighted included increasing efforts on and resources to gender mainstreaming in all policy areas and more effective utilization the CEDAW Convention.

The Division collaborates with the Statistics Division in the Department for Economic and Social Affairs on reporting on progress in implementation of Millennium Development Goal 3. The Division is also a member of the taskforce on Gender and the MDGs in the United Nations Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.

As manager of the Inter-agency Network’s website, *WomenWatch*, the Division plans to encourage members to increase the dissemination of information on efforts to both incorporate gender perspectives into implementation of all the MDGs and facilitate implementation of Millennium Development Goal 3.

## Examples of Resources Developed by the Division



Partner website: <http://www.un.org/daw>

Conference website: <http://worldbank.org/gender>