

SPECIAL ADVISER: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

In response to the international concern regarding the status of women manifested in the final document of the Nairobi World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, the Department of External Affairs has decided to appoint a Special Adviser for International Women's Programmes as evidence of Canada's continued commitment to the advancement of women and the elimination of gender-based discrimination.

1 RATIONALE

The success of the Nairobi World Conference and the consensus adoption of its final document, the Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (FLS), have given fresh impetus to the need for Member States to review their response to the advancement of women internationally. The Department of External Affairs has decided to take advantage of the 15 year planning horizon provided by the FLS to develop an integrated, system-wide approach to these matters. As an initial step, a senior official has been appointed to draw up strategic guidelines for Canadian implementation of the international measures outlined in the FLS. The Special Adviser, International Women's Programmes, will guide the responsible departmental officials in providing substantive Canadian support for the application of the FLS at the international level.

2 POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Special Adviser has the mandate:

- a to formulate criteria for the advancement of women (based on the FLS and emphasizing the role of women in economic as well as social development) for inclusion in Canadian foreign policy;