

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL STEERING GROUP  
FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S PROGRAMMES (ISG/IWP)

RATIONALE

Government commitment to global equality for women is well established. Measures taken by Canada and by other governments to support international aspects of equality for women are increasing. The multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral nature of the issue as well as the number of international forums in which it is considered indicate the need for coordination.

MANDATE

To coordinate Canadian government action to achieve global equality for women and to evaluate progress therein bearing in mind Canada's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and participation in the consensus adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (FLS).

OBJECTIVES

The ISG/IWP should ensure that Canada adopts a comprehensive, integrated approach, in line with domestic government priorities and policies for the advancement of women, to support the FLS:

- (a) by developing strategic guidelines to implement those measures which have implications for Canada's bilateral and multilateral relations;
- (b) by identifying key issues and international meetings for priority action and co-ordinating the Canadian position in that respect;
- (c) by contributing to the work of relevant interdepartmental and federal/provincial/territorial committees.

COMPOSITION/STRUCTURE

The ISG/IWP will consist of a core group comprising representatives of those departments having statutory authority at the international level and/or technical competence in women's equality issues. These are: