

10.0 ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Impacts on Women:

When we began the research on this paper, we planned to analyse the impacts of specific Canadian policies on African women. What we found in compiling the various agreement instruments is that there were:

Trade policies - treaties, MOUs, bilateral and sectoral trade agreements and FIPAs

Development policies - bilateral country programmes, regional programmes, planning frameworks, CFLI and multilateral contributions and some optional protocols.

International commitments (that are not legally binding – moral persuasion agreements) made by the Government of Canada at the UN, Commonwealth and other forums (e.g. Platform for Women)

Economic Gender equity requires that all economic policies be based on an analysis of both practical needs and strategic interests of men and women. Practical needs of women in the business sector include credit, infrastructure building, market access and autonomy, land rights etc. The strategic interests include economic rights, policy development participation and taxation equity. Some of these needs and interests are not yet met in various countries. Canadian policies need to be developed with a recognition and sensitivity to all these issues.

In our literature review, we found several research documents and books that speak to some of the impacts of economic policies on women. Most of these, on the surface, appear to be gender neutral, but actually entrench systemic barriers to women, especially in the business sector. Our preliminary analysis shows that the Tax Treaties do not take into account differential gender taxing systems of various countries. For example, until recently in Canada, married couples submitted one Income Tax Return. This had the effect of negating married women's contribution to the economy. When a Canadian couple resides in another country, it is important for countries signing Tax Treaties to harmonize their tax systems.

The above agreement instruments need specific analysis with respect to impacts on and implications for African women.

Recommendation:

1. That a separate and independent study be undertaken to thoroughly analyse the Canadian Trade and Development Policies as well as International Commitments relating to Africa for their impact on African women.