

they are expected to have impacts. This extends as well to a recognition of the lack of cultural homogeneity within any given country.

(5) The achievement of gender equality is as much an economic issue as a socio-cultural one. Given the increased importance of economic development, Canada's gender equality policy must emphasize equal access to capital and technology, especially within the microcredit and micro-enterprise contexts.

(6) There is a need to break the association between gender equality and so-called "women's issues". In order to encourage a broad-based move toward gender equality, Canadian policy must extend the concept to all areas of life, including, but not limited to reconciling the apparent contradiction between economic efficiency and gender equality.

(7) In Asian countries it is becoming increasingly obvious that labour is polarizing into two categories: the highly skilled and the unskilled, with an increasing demand for the former. However, for women, while their rate of labour force participation is increasing, they are becoming marginalized into the part-time, casual and less-skilled segment. The importance Canada's foreign policy attaches to gender equality must be directed toward securing equality in job opportunities, education, political participation, and civil rights.

(8) The system of social indicator data collection in many Asian countries does not allow for easy tracking and quantification of the advancement of women. It is imperative that Canada's support of gender equality be grounded on a sound statistical basis. There is, therefore, the need to restate Canada's commitment in a manner that encourages developing countries to collect gender segregated data on those social indicators most useful in demonstrating progress toward equality.

(9) Due to the emphasis placed on economic growth, and the resulting changes to the structure of labour (as noted above) in many Asian countries, a number of the advancements won by women during the 1980s are in danger. In order to sustain the move to gender equality, Canada's foreign policy must encourage the commitment of money and other resources to (a) the direct support of women's groups, and (b) the implementation of policies and laws needed to maintain supportive socio-cultural, economic and political environments.