

5.0 METHODOLOGY

This section outlines the varied methods and techniques used to review the impact of the Canadian policies on African women. Through analysis, review of various media, both primary and secondary sources the required statistical, quantitative and qualitative research was conducted.

CAABWA also engaged its broad-based membership, both local in Canada and continental in Africa. Through personal interviews, surveys and discussion, significant input was gained.

Specific Methods Used:

- *Focus Groups and Discussion:* The use of unstructured and informal focus groups was instrumental in the development of the concept and focus of the paper. Discussions and meetings were scheduled on a regular basis whereby further approaches and sources were identified and explored. The focus groups consisted of CAABWA members, trade representatives, private and public sector members and African officials.
- *Literary Research and Review:* To conduct the research several government documents, policies and statements were reviewed. As well as documents and publications made by several international organizations ranging from the United Nations to the World Bank. Statistical data was also collected from these sources. Journal and newspaper articles offered a more qualitative perspective to the paper (both Canadian and African sources were beneficial here).
 - Throughout the duration of the formulation of the paper a running literary review was kept to maintain awareness and supplement the other research methods used. The review was useful in gaining both a historical context, as well as, an analytical perspective to many of the documents and issues addressed in the paper.
- *Surveys:* As a method of obtaining information from various parties operating in or out of Africa that may or may not be affected by Canadian policy a questionnaire was drafted, finalized and submitted to several relevant global partners. The survey covered Canadian policies toward Africa, the respondent's experience with such policies, and their consequent recommendations.
 - The surveys were submitted to 32 NGOs operating in Africa, 15 individuals with relevant experience and knowledge in dealing with Canadian Foreign Policy, such as academics, project directors, etc. Surveys were also submitted to 35 Embassies and High Commissions of a range of African countries. Finally, in order to establish significant contribution from continental African women involved in organizations, 17 surveys were distributed to CAABWA affiliates and other women's organizations in various countries.
 - The average response rate was about 46%.