

4.0 PURPOSE FOR THE PAPER

As Canada hosts the G8 Summit, 2002 and leads the preparation of the *G8 Africa Action Plan*, it is important to check on the guiding frameworks that determine Canada's actions agenda. As indicated above, women are the backbone and driving force of African economies.

The purpose of this paper is to compile Canada's current policies and strategies towards Africa and to make recommendations for future policies so that they may benefit African women.

To develop the recommendations, CAABWA identifies, as comprehensively as possible, those Canadian policies and strategies that frame and guide Canada's social and developmental actions towards Africa, as well as its trade and investment activities.

CAABWA makes recommendations on the focus of Canadian policies that will farther the social development of African women, enhance their benefits from the trade and investment activities, and as a result will profit all African communities, in alignment with the G8 Summit 2002 priorities.

CAVEAT

In conducting this research and developing the recommendations, we were faced with a number of constraints. First our initial plan proved to be too ambitious. We had planned to conduct an extensive review of all the policies, strategic plans, agreements, arrangements and any other relevant government documents concerning Africa! Our short timelines and the difficulty of finding all the policies, MOUs, agreements and strategies did not permit such an extensive review.

This compilation of policies, strategies, agreements, MOU and arrangements were the ones we could find or get access to. There may well be other policies that we have not identified in this paper. We hope that our work will inspire others to conduct more research into the policies that exist within various Canadian departments.

The paper also does not make any recommendations or review of the globalization issues that have been addressed by various organizations. That work would require more time and the involvement of women from several countries. We hope that we will be able to conduct the kind of review that is necessary for the maximization of benefits to African and Canadian women in business and those in development work.

For those interested in conducting work on the policies in place at present and those required for the future support of businesswomen in African countries, we hope you will share your work with us, and the women in Canada and African countries.