



SAfAIDS

Regional Approaches to Strengthening Ownership, Results and Accountability

Case Study: Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) Gender Equality Protocol

Workshop on Strengthening the Development Results and Impacts of
the Paris Declaration through Work on Gender Equality, Social
Exclusion and Human Rights

London, United Kingdom, 12-13 March 2008

Context

Efforts to promote gender equality, equity and women's rights in Africa has gained momentum over the past 10 years thus setting the stage for the further gains.

2005 was a significant year for several reasons:

- It was the 25th anniversary of SADC.
- It was the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.
- It was the deadline set in the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development for the achievement of 30 % women in all areas of decision-making.
- In September, leaders from around the world reviewed progress towards the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) five years after their adoption.

Initiative: Campaign for Gender Protocol

- In 2005- An audit of gender commitments in the region concluded that the single greatest challenge is the need to move the SADC region **from an era of commitments to an era of implementation**
- Key recommendation: The elevation of the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development to a Protocol to accelerate gender equality in SADC
- This is also in support of Article 26 of the Addendum to the Declaration on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women and Children which makes provision for the adoption of legally binding instruments.



The Gender Alliance

- A group of regional organisations took the lead in researching, drafting and lobbying for the Gender Protocol.
 - Coordinated by Gender Links and includes the Gender and Media Southern Africa (GEMSA) Network, the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), Women in Law in Development in Africa (WILDAF), SARDC/WIDSAA, and SAfAIDS).
- Received significant support and participation from SADC Gender Unit and SADC Parliamentary Forum
- Members of the Alliance have supported intensive lobbying and in-country capacity building and advocacy to build ownership and accountability

TimeLine

From the 2005 Audit by members of Alliance

- Original Protocol was drafted
- Presented at Summit of Heads of State (Botswana) – audit presented by SADC Gender Forum. Audit presented to Civil Society at Parallel Summit.
- Presented at Regional Meeting in Angola- SADC Parliamentary Forum
- National Level Consultations- Lead by Gender Ministries and civil society organisations.
- Draft Reviewed by Justice and Gender Ministries
- Review by the Council of Ministers
- Summit for Heads of State- **August 2007** - recommendation for further consultation
- Renewed national level consultations-Gender Ministries
- Lusaka Draft (2007)- considered 'watered-down' and deferred
- Senior officials in Gender Ministries take up process for strengthening the draft SADC Protocol on Gender and Development Review and plan to present at 2008 Summit
- Alliance Members supporting revision and lobbying by Alliance Members- to lead up to 2008

In the Region

- Regional Ownership and Accountability- SADC has played a leadership role in convening and supporting the process.
 - Engaged and communicated with relevant national ministries
 - Encouraged involvement of civil society organisations
 - Maintained gender on its agenda.
 - Supported provided guidance to regional organisations (the Alliance) civil society organisations to understand and participate in policy development processes

In-Country

- SADC engaged Gender Ministries and gained significant buy-in from Gender Ministries- varied by country
- Alliance members worked with national civil society and gender ministries to develop a sense of mutual accountability between government/s and civil society.
- Supported sustained dialogue and consultation between civil society, advocacy groups and governments on drafts
- At country level- basis of buy-in was the international gender commitments already signed. A protocol would assist ministries to implement and account for commitments.

Role of Donors

- Donors such as International Ideas, UNIFEM, HIVOS, EFS and CREDO have provided funding to civil society organisations to support the audit.
- Other donors through basket funding have supported regional organisations and SADC directly to enable them to support the process.
- Donors have not intervened proactively, except through funding and thus contribute to a greater sense of ownership.

Key Learning Points

- Policy change takes time and requires long-term funding support
- Partnerships are Key: Between civil society and Government at national and regional level.
- Need for broad-based lobbying at national level
- Discussions based on evidence
- Technical assistance and Guidance on advocacy, lobbying and processes for Policy Development (SADC) is essential

Thank You