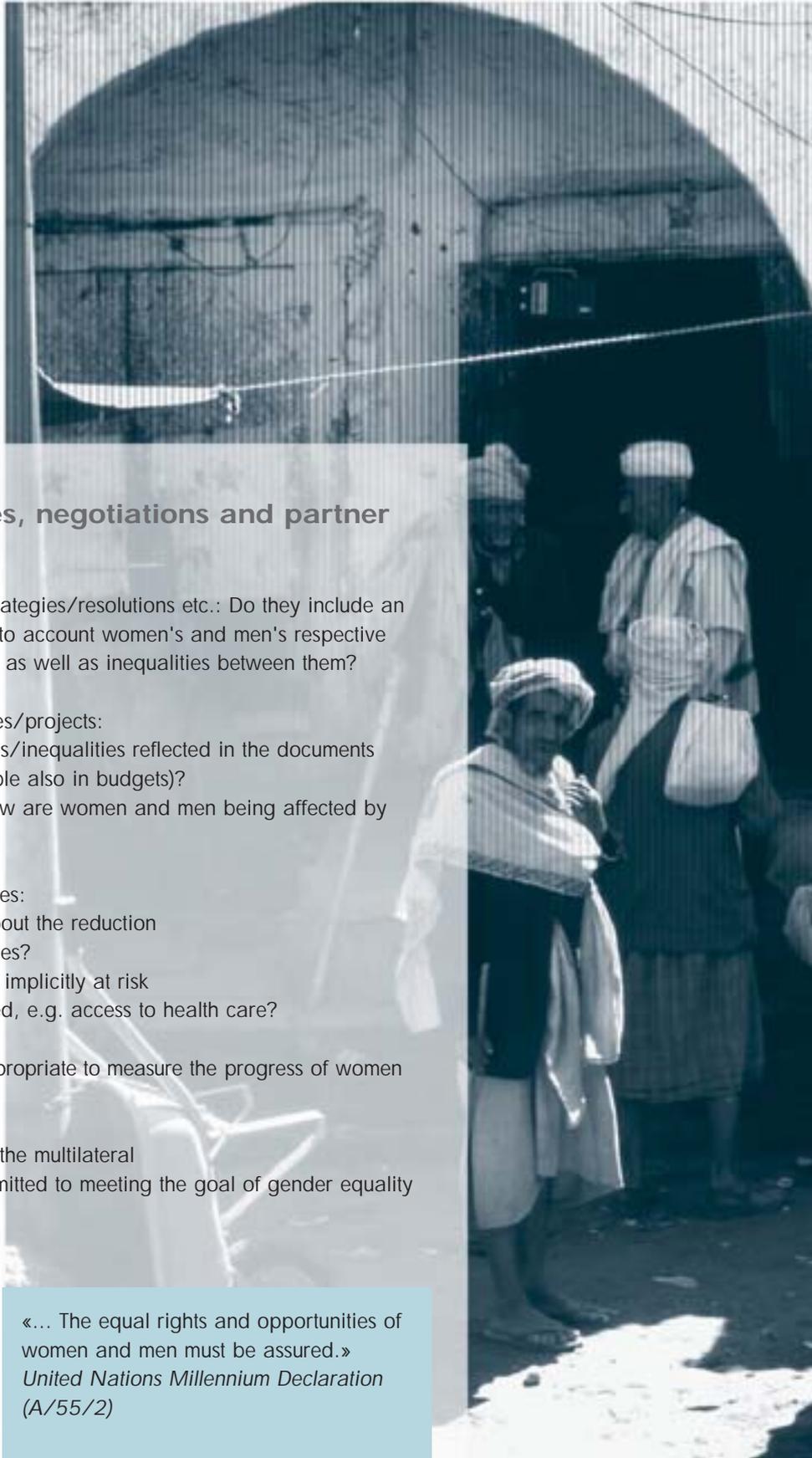


SDC plays an active role in numerous inter-governmental bodies of which Switzerland is a member, e.g. UNDP Executive Board, WFP Executive Board, United Nations General Assembly, World Bank Board of Governors, the Regional Development Banks and the corresponding Development Funds as well as IFAD. SDC officers also frequently participate in international conferences and events at the global, regional and national levels, e.g. major United Nations conferences and Consultative Group meetings. Gender can be included in multilateral work in several ways.



Gender in debates, negotiations and partner institutions

1. Multilateral policies/strategies/resolutions etc.: Do they include an analysis of and take into account women's and men's respective roles, needs and rights as well as inequalities between them?
2. Multilateral programmes/projects:
 - Are gender relations/inequalities reflected in the documents (to the extent possible also in budgets)?
 - Implementation: How are women and men being affected by the activities?
3. Goals/targets/objectives:
 - Are they explicit about the reduction of gender inequalities?
 - Are women's rights implicitly at risk of being jeopardised, e.g. access to health care?
4. Indicators: Are they appropriate to measure the progress of women as well as men?
5. Equal opportunities: Is the multilateral partner institution committed to meeting the goal of gender equality and gender balance?

«... The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.»
United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/55/2)



Gender in Swiss delegations and contributions

1. Gender-balance in Swiss delegations:
Are competent women included in Swiss delegations?
2. Swiss interventions/statements/positions etc.:
 - Are rapid assessments/evaluations undertaken in a gender-sensitive manner?
 - Are gender considerations (see Q8) adequately reflected?
3. Refer to the organisation's own gender policy
Most of these international organisations have their own gender policies, and sometimes it is simple to refer to the organisation's own policy during negotiations or when making comments on documents and other policies.

«... We share the view of Denmark, Sweden and the USA that UNDP's efforts in support of gender equality are not sufficient. Although we realise that the gender dimension is being mainstreamed ... we nevertheless have the impression that the gender dimension is no longer a top priority for UNDP ... We would therefore urge UNDP to clearly reconfirm gender equality as strategic priority of the organisation and to redouble its efforts in this respect to advance the status of women. ...»
extract from Swiss intervention at UNDP Executive Board Annual Session 2001

«Policies and measures will be pursued in line with the following goals and targets: ... (j) Promoting child health and survival and reducing disparities between and within developed and developing countries as quickly as possible, with particular attention to eliminating the pattern of excess and preventable mortality among girl infants and children; ...»
Programme for Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010 (A/CONF.191/11, para. 38) and reconfirmed in WSSD Plan of Implementation thanks to heavy lobbying on the part of the Swiss delegation

In Country Offices, Cooperation with multilateral and Bretton Woods Institutions

- In compliance with its status as a member, Switzerland is induced to take a stand on various documents issued by the World Bank. These can comprise strategy documents, e.g. sector strategies, as well as Country Assessment Strategies (CAS's). In determining the Swiss position, the cooperation offices of the countries concerned are contacted and drawn into the process, ever mindful of according due consideration to the aspects relating to the equality of women and men. This holds equally true for the macroeconomic analyses conducted within the framework of the IMF (Article 4 or HIPC).
- In the course of the process leading to the finalisation of a PRSP, while fully aware of the fact that the country concerned is ultimately responsible for the unfolding of this process, those representing Switzerland can utilize their influence to assure that gender aspects be taken into account by invoking the national legal framework, international commitments, and the World Bank's strategy for the equality of men and women.