



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

**Consideration of reports submitted by States
parties under article 18 of the Convention on the
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

Combined seventh and eighth periodic report

Cape Verde*

[3 November 2011]

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not formally edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

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Annexes**

** Annexes can be consulted in the files of the Secretariat.

I. Introduction

1. The State of Cape Verde ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on December 5th, 1980. In August 2006 it submitted the initial report, which was considered a cumulative report (1 through 6). The present document complies with the recommendation of the Committee to present in 2009 a Combined Report incorporating, in a single document, the periodical reports due in September 2006 and September 2010.

2. To prepare the report, a methodology was adopted that ensured, at all stages of its development, the involvement of civil society (specifically organizations operating in the field of human rights promotion and supporting the development of women), the National Parliament (represented by the Network of Parliamentarian Women and the Presidency of the National Assembly, to whom the Report was presented), as well as different public institutions.

3. The methodology adopted allowed for the participation of these organizations and institutions in two different moments: the first through individual meetings and interviews for auscultation and gathering of information and contributions for the preparation of the Report. The second through a collective sharing and socialization exercise – the Workshop for CEDAW Report Validation. The issues raised in this workshop were incorporated into the final version.

4. We should point out that two additional processes enabled many elements contained in this report to be the subject of intense debate: the preparation and presentation of the African Gender and Development Index Study (AGDI), introduced by the United Nations Economic Committee for Africa, and the discussion of the Draft Law on Gender-based Violence.

5. The purpose of the AGDI Study, validated on the 8th of July 2009, was to measure the gap between the status of women and men, assess the progress made by the Government in terms of gender policies, and identify gender imbalances. The study assessed the degree of ownership and implementation of the main treaties, protocols and African and International conventions (particularly CEDAW) that promote gender equality.

6. In Cape Verde, the study enable not only progress in the areas of promotion of women and gender equality to be measured objectively, , but also the involvement of national institutions (8 non-governmental organizations and 12 public institutions). Likewise, it has allowed for close cooperation between the Government and civil society.

7. The process of discussion and approval in generality (26th of July 2010) of the Draft Law on Gender-based Violence has allowed, in addition to the involvement of the civil society, for matters relating to the status of implementation of CEDAW and the need for strengthening the legal framework for the implementation of gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women, to be discussed in a deeper way with the National Parliament and political parties.

8. No information contained in the previous report is repeated in the current one. The recommendations of the Committee made to the country in 2006 served as reference for action during this period and therefore acted as guiding principles in drafting this report.

9. Fulfilling the recommendations of the Guidelines for the preparation of reports to be submitted to the Committee, this document is organized into two main parts: the first, called Essential Data and Facts contains up-to-date information on the country's demographic, political and economic situation. The information presented is based on data produced and disseminated by the National Institute of Statistics (INE), namely Demographic Projections for 2000-2010 and Unified Questionnaire of Well-Being

Indicators (QUIBB-2006 and 2007), as well as on data produced by other government bodies such as the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labor and Solidarity and by the Ministry of Justice.

10. The second part presents information, article by article, on the situation and the actions undertaken to comply with the requirements stipulated by the Convention. For that purpose, the laws produced between September 2006 and July 2010 were revised, and Plans, Programs and Activity reports of the various institutions were consulted. The information collected was analyzed and verified through interviews.

11. This report also includes an annex with the list of legislative productions and treaties cited, relevant documentation consulted, statistical information on the situation of men and women in Cape Verde, in the form of tables, containing data disaggregated by sex and area (urban and rural), in the fields of demography, education, health, economy and political power.

Essential data and facts

1. Social and demographic situation

12. According to the 2009 United Nations Report on Human Development, in 2007 Cape Verde stood in the 119th position, with a human development index (HDI) of 0.786. The HDI Adjusted to Gender was 0.708, which placed the country in the 101st position.

13. In Cape Verde public policies in recent years assume a committed discourse in relation to gender dimensions of analysis and formulation of intervention programs, in view of promoting equality between men and women, based on knowledge of social relations dynamics.

14. The Government Program of the 7th Legislature (2007-2011) recognizes the need to develop and implement a Platform for Action based on the National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity geared towards the promotion of a global social development policy, combating poverty and strengthening social cohesion and solidarity and towards the achievement of the Millennium Goals, in particular Objective 3 aimed at "promoting gender equality and women empowerment."

15. The 2008-2011 Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (GPRSP II) is the instrument of global planning of the Country and constitutes the guiding framework for interventions in different sectors and therefore for resource allocation.

16. This document recognizes that "the integration of the gender approach in Cape Verde has been a challenge taking into account persisting socio-cultural perceptions, which often constitute an obstacle to the development, formulation and implementation of policies. Therefore it proposes, among actions to be implemented, "to ensure the effective introduction of a gender approach into sectoral policies, programs and projects, particularly as regards the fight against poverty, professional training and employment and the promotion of citizenship"¹

17. In 2008, Cape Verde graduated from the group of Least Developed Countries to the group of Middle Development Countries. The main indicators contributing to this change were economic and social development indicators, namely GDP per capita, as well as education and health indicators.

¹ Ministry of Finance and Public Administration. General Directorate of Planning. GPRSP II (p.176)

18. Demographic data shows that, in addition to the continuing trend towards urbanization, as a result of continued rural-urban migration, there is a tendency for population balance in terms of gender.

19. According to demographic projections, based on the 2000 Census, the resident population in 2010 is 525,310, 51.4% (270,275) of which are females. Regarding residential areas, 41% of the population live in rural areas and 54% in urban areas (54% in 2000). The female presence is greater both in urban areas (51.1%) and rural areas, but in rural areas the difference is higher (52%).

20. In 2007, the birth rate was 25.1 per thousand inhabitants and the mortality rate 5.3 per thousand.

21. Young people (0-14 years) represent 36.9% of the total population and there is a declining tendency (42.3% in 2000 and 45.0% in 1990), linked to the reduction in population growth - in the 1990-2000 period the growth rate was 2.3% but for 2000 – 2005 it was 1.8%. This situation is related to the decrease in the fertility rate: in 2000 the average number of children per woman was 4 and 2.9 in 2005.

22. In the 0 to 14 age-group the number of boys is slightly higher (50.7%) than the number of girls. In the 15 to 34 age-group there is nearly the same number of men (49.7%) as women (50.3%).

23. Gender demographic imbalance starts from 35 years of age (52% of women) reaching the highest rates from 55 years (61.7% of women).

24. The elderly (over 65 years) represent 5.5% of the total population (5.8% in 1990 and 6.3% in 2000).

25. According to the Unified Questionnaire on Basic Well-being Indicators (QUIBB) of 2007, 45% of households were headed by women, of whom 41.0% in urban areas and 50.1% in rural areas. There is a clear tendency for the increase in households headed by women (40.1% in 2000).

26. Regarding access to education, the situation between 2004 and 2008 evolved differently by levels of education.

27. At pre-school level the admission rate remained at around 60%. Data on the academic year 2008/2009 shows that the pre-school, (for children from 3 to 5), was attended by approximately 22,182 children. The net intake rate in that academic year was 60.2%, with a balanced access of girls and boys.

28. In primary education, which is universal and compulsory (1st to 6th years of schooling) there are no differences between girls' and boys' access. However, a situation that requires reflection is the increasing tendency for the decrease in net schooling rate, which lowered from 96% in 2004 to 88% in 2008.

29. In secondary education, the net schooling rate increased in the same period from 58% to 62%, especially for girls (61% to 67%). Among boys the increase in access to secondary education was less marked, i.e., the net schooling rate went from 55% to 57%.

30. In the Pedagogical Institute (Primary Teacher Training School), student enrolment remained around 700, with particular relevance for women, who represent nearly 70% of the total.

31. Enrolment in higher education duplicated from 3,911 in 2004 to 8,409 in 2008, as a result of the increase in the number of higher education institutions. The number of women enrolled in the academic year 2008/2009 was 4,048 and the number of men 4,361

32. Between 2000 and 2007 there was an improvement in literacy rates in the country, both among women (from 67.2% to 73.0%) and men (from 83.5% to 87.0%). However, illiteracy affects mainly rural women.

33. Literacy rate among rural women is 64.1%, while in urban areas it is 79.4%. The age group with the highest illiteracy rate is made up of women over 35 years old. In adult education there was a decrease in the number of enrolment from 4,922 in 2004 to 2,260 in 2007.

34. According to education indicators, school failure and dropouts are mostly among boys, both in primary and secondary education.

35. Data from the National Health Policy shows that in Cape Verde the diseases resulting and/or linked to hygiene, sanitary and socioeconomic conditions tend to decrease, even considering the epidemic periods of cholera in 1995, measles in 1997 and dengue in 2009. At the same time a progressive growth of chronic diseases, including diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular diseases has been reported.

36. The overall death rate has been relatively low in recent years. In 2004 the rate for general mortality was around 5.4 per thousand, 21.1 per thousand live births, 25.2 per thousand children under 5 years of age and 28 per thousand perinatal births.

37. In 2005 maternal mortality, stood at 14.5 per 100 000 live births, with annual values oscillating between 5 and 11 deaths.

38. Tuberculosis has relatively high incidence rates around 60 per hundred thousand inhabitants. Although this is below the 150 theoretically predicted rate by the World Health Organization (WHO) it is still a population health issue mainly because of the influence of HIV/AIDS epidemic.

2. Economic situation

39. Throughout the first decade of the 21st century Cape Verde has experienced significant economic growth. The country was seriously affected by the global financial crisis that led to the decline of foreign private investment and official development assistance.

40. The pace of growth of gross domestic product (GDP) slowed to 3.9% in 2009, after reaching 5.9% in 2008. Key sectors of the economy, namely tourism and construction, allied to foreign direct investment have faced some stagnation. However, and according to information from the Bank of Cape Verde, remittances from Cape Verdean emigrants remained almost constant, having increased by 1.7% in 2009.

41. The total unemployment rate is 22.6%, with no significant difference between the urban and rural areas, but rates are particularly high among women (27.2%), against 15.5% among men. Men's activity rate (67.3%) is 10 percentage points higher than women's (56.9%).

42. The "Profile of the Cape Verdean Public Administration" (2007), shows a slight superiority in the number of men - representing 51.3% against 48.7% of women. The differences are very pronounced in the areas of Internal Security, where women represent 9%, in Agriculture and environment sectors, with 23.3% and in criminal police with 25.3%. The sectors that have a strong presence of women are Education, with 56.7% of the total, and Health with 64.5%. These data tend to show the maintenance of gender occupational stereotypes.

43. Data from the Survey on Household Income and Expenditure (2001-2002) placed poverty at 37%. The QUIBB 2007 shows a reduction to 26.6%, that is, a reduction of nine percentage points. Poverty in women headed households (56.3%) is 12 percentage points higher than in households headed by men (43.7%).

3. Political situation

44. Among the country's development objectives for the period 2006-2010 are: the creation and implementation of affirmative action mechanisms aimed at increasing women's participation in the legislative, judicial and local powers; the effective implementation of the current legal framework, especially its regulations, in order to ensure an effective use of its underlying protection provisions; the adoption of mechanisms promoting equality of opportunity and greater participation of women in economic activities; special attention to be given to issues of domestic violence and to reduction of inequalities in access to services; and the strengthening of partnerships with civil society organizations working towards the promotion of citizenship and family, the defense of women's rights, the promotion of community development and combating poverty.

45. The presence of women in the Government has improved substantially since 2008, when Cape Verde became one of the first countries to have gender parity in Government.

46. There is a minority presence of women in the Parliament (15.2%) and in the municipal power (22.2% overall, with 20.7% of women in the City Council and 22.8% in Municipal Assemblies).

47. The presence of women is not significant at the level of the governing bodies of political parties (21.7%) and in employers' organizations (20.8%).

48. Nearly 55.7% of the posts of Community-based Associations are occupied by women, but only 11% of these associations are chaired by women.

II. Implementation of the provisions laid down by the Convention in the Republic of Cape Verde

Articles 1 and 2: Legislative measures to eliminate discrimination against women

49. Since the submission of the last report, the Cape Verdean legal system has kept in its entirety, all rights, freedoms and guarantees set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and developed extensively by the Constitution of the Republic of Cape Verde (adopted in 1992 and revised in 1999).

50. Since the previous report, the country has adopted a series of enactments that promote equality between men and women regarding the effective exercise of their rights and also set standards that deal with women's issues in a positive way by recognizing the need to overcome inequality.

51. In chronological order, this report presents the legislation establishing, directly or indirectly, measures that contribute to the elimination of discrimination against women in the most varied areas: economic opportunities, right to work, social security, health, community service and volunteering, housing, gender-based violence.

52. Through the Legislative decree 5/2007 of 16 of October, the Labor Code was approved. This Code revoked all the sparse legislation concerning subordinate labor relations established in the context of private, co-operative and mixed companies as well as all the situations in which a person undertakes, by contract of employment, to provide his/her professional activity to a legal person under public law or considered as such, under the direction and orders of their respective governing bodies, but without submission to the legal status of the public administration.

53. This legal instrument strengthens the principle of equality between men and women established in the Constitution of the Republic: equal remuneration for equal work in

identical situations, admitting only differentiations based on objective criteria common to men and women, "so as to exclude any discrimination based on gender" (article 16).

54. Regarding the competences assigned to the trade union bodies, the document pontificates the defense of compliance to the rules relating to the work of young people and women by recognizing the specificities of work carried out by women, especially as regards the union's capacity to safeguard all their rights (paragraph a) - Article 92.

55. Another novelty of this diploma is a specific chapter on women's work, which establishes the protection of maternity, the 60-day maternity leave, the rights to breastfeeding leave and, with particular relevance, the assumption that the dismissal of a pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding woman is done without just cause (Articles 270 to 275).

56. The Labor Code ensures the right to not do overtime or night work during pregnancy and the postpartum period, – (b) of paragraph 2 of article 270.

57. However some limitations still remain regarding the possibility of man getting actively involved in the care of newborns: only two days of justified absences are allowed, and this cannot be considered as paternity leave (Article 186 number 2 j).

58. The Code shyly stimulates responsibility to be taken by men in the postpartum period by establishing as an example of legitimate personal reasons for not doing overtime, the monitoring of spouse or cohabitant in the postpartum state (numbers 2 and 4 of Article 160)

59. Still in the scope of pregnant and/nursing women and child protection, night work is planned to be converted into day work "for pregnant shift or night workers within the 180 days preceding the expected date of delivery, and this scheme is valid for a period of not less than one year after the childbirth, unless the employer operates exclusively in night or per shift scheme" (article 162).

60. The right to full salary during the period of maternity leave is also established, regardless if the mother is included or not in the Social Security system (article 212°).

61. Especially relevant is the fact that the Labor Code for the first time sets rules that guarantee the recognition of domestic employment as productive work, taking into account that this work is almost exclusively carried out by women (about 96%)².

62. All the fundamental rights of domestic workers are recognized: weekly rest, vacation and effective remuneration. It is forbidden to consider accommodation or food as the only form of remuneration earned. The Code provides that the dismissal can only occur as a result of prior disciplinary proceedings (Articles 286 to 294).

63. When regulating the activity of Microfinance organizations, Act 15/VII/2007 of 10 of September, assigns a key role to this instrument in combating poverty and social exclusion, and hence in promoting economic empowerment of women. It provides for the operation, at the Central Bank, of a Consultative Council, which shall be listened to on all issues related to the promotion and development of micro finance system, where the Cape Verdean Institute for Gender Equality and Equity is represented. This is very relevant, as the micro financing is a widely used strategy, mainly by NGOs, to promote female entrepreneurship and self-employment (most micro loans made have been granted to women) – they offer financial services for populations outside the traditional banking circuits.

64. Act No. 19/VII/2007 of 26 of November, by regulating aspects related to prevention, treatment and control of HIV/AIDS gives special emphasis to the protection of pregnant

² Study on the economic situation of women domestic workers. ICIEG, March 2008

women by highlighting that prenatal consultation should provide them with the necessary information on the HIV infection, voluntary access to screening and necessary assistance (article 4)

65. In the media, the inclusion of a specific article (7, paragraph 2 d) in Decree-Law No. 46/2007 (Advertising Code) that prohibits advertising containing any discrimination regarding gender, is an important tool to combat discrimination against women. This law applies to all forms of advertising, and all advertising agents and public or private, domestic or foreign entities developing an advertising activity on national territory. This ruling opens the possibility that any publicity considered discriminatory can be impeached.

66. Resolution 5 / 2008 of 18 of February on National Health Policy, gave legal force to the Program of Sexual and Reproductive Health, considered as "a commitment to the development of the human person, in particular, feminine gender", and aims to contribute to development, ensuring the full participation of women and men in the sharing of responsibilities on all aspects of family, sexual and reproductive behavior and the practice of family planning.

67. The social security scheme, which is being revised since 2006, embodies one of the major breakthroughs in the field of social protection the country has ever known. Therefore it is at the level of social protection scheme that the Cape Verdean legal system had one of the most significant developments in relation to women's rights.

68. Decree-Law 21/2006 of 27 of February through the unification of the social protection system extended the coverage of social security to government agents, providing them the benefits of medical care and access to medicine in total equality with employees working for others. This measure had a very positive impact on the situation of women since this area is their 2nd employment niche.

69. Decree-Law No 47/2009 of 23 of November, established a minimum value for the contributory basis. This measure ensures the integration of workers whose actual salary is too low to apply an incidence rate which can cover all sorts of allowances or benefits substitute for income. This legal provision is of great importance in terms of gender equality, since women are precisely those with the lowest incomes.

70. Decree-Law 48/2009, of November 23, makes the social protection system compulsory for independent workers. This guarantees coverage to vulnerable sectors of economic activity, mostly undertaken by women. It is worth noting that the activities of "farm workers or similar that would result in management decisions, provided these activities are exercised directly, repeatedly and permanently," are equated to farm exploration, activities and exploration of sylviculture, livestock, horticulture, aviculture and beekeeping (paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, d) of Article 6 of the law cited).

71. Despite imposing the obligation to contribute, this obligation does not apply to the period of proven inability or unavailability to work in a situation of maternity leave (e) of article 23).

72. This normative has a great impact on the situation of women since it integrates employees and independent workers, including the informal sector, where there is a large proportion of women workers especially in trade (1st activity niche of women) and agriculture (3rd activity niche of women).

73. Decree-Law 49/2009, of November 23 covers for the first time people who provide domestic work. This category includes any person who undertakes, against payment, to perform for others, on a regular basis, under their direction and authority, all kinds of services designed to satisfy the specific needs of a household or equivalent and respective members. (Article 3).

74. This diploma imposes an obligation for the employer to regularize the situation of people doing domestic services within a maximum of 120 (a hundred and twenty) days from the date of its entry into force. This measure is of particular importance to women because this service is their 4th employment niche.

75. Decree-Law 50/2009 of 30 of November lays down that social protection for all workers is compulsory. Therefore all employers must register with the Social Security System. By recognizing the right to compensation for loss of remuneration, this diploma expands the range of beneficiaries of the allowances for assistance to hospitalized child and for mothers on exclusive breastfeeding.

76. Through the adoption of resolution No. 124/VII/2009 of 22 of March, the National Assembly ratified the African Youth Charter, adopted by the Seventh ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held on 2 of July 2006, in Banjul, Gambia.

77. This device asserts that all States Parties shall recognize "the need to eliminate discrimination against girls and young women as laid down in several conventions and international, regional and national instruments of human rights protection and promotion of women's rights."

78. The inclusion of this charter in the domestic law is of great importance to strengthening the principles of CEDAW since a whole article (23) is entitled "Girls and Young Women". It commits the State to the implementation of measures that "provide an education system that does not prevent girls, including married and pregnant women from continuing their studies" – the article specifically obliges the State not to prevent pregnant students from attending school.

79. Resolution 26/2010, which approves the Principles of Good Governance of Public or State-participated Enterprises, should also be mentioned, since its Article 9, entitled the "Gender Equality Plans" stresses that "after a diagnosis of the situation, State-owned Enterprises should adopt equality plans, aiming to achieve real equality of treatment and opportunities between men and women, eliminate discrimination and allow the reconciliation of personal, family and professional life."

80. This resolution is particularly important in the elimination of discrimination against women. In a country where their presence in public companies is quite negligible, especially their participation in governing bodies, the elaboration of Gender Equality Plans, requires the completion of diagnoses, recognition of inequalities and the design of measures to overcome the situation. This process makes it possible to sensitize people and empower them to act as protectors of gender equality.

81. The Decree-Law on the National System of Social Housing (SNHS), approved by the Council of Minister on May 13, 2009, (to be published in the Official Bulletin), aims to implement policies and programs for housing investment, as well as all kinds of support and incentives to the purchase and rehabilitation of social housing. This mechanism was created in order to meet the demands of lower income populations and, in general, "it provides them access to urbanized land and decent sustainable housing."

82. This decree includes provisions which are of affirmative nature for women. One of the strategic objectives of the provisions of Article 5. 2 f), of SNHS is to promote "special protection in access to housing for female household heads and young people." In addition, it specifies that "the structure, organization and actions of SNHIS" must also comply with the directive to "establish mechanisms of quotas for the elderly, disabled and households headed by women among lower income households" (Article 6, paragraph 2 b).

83. The Decree establishing the Standards for the Implementation of the SNHS, when defining the parameters of social housing, in Article No. 21 plans the creation of a "Single Registry" that constitutes a single instrument for registration and selection of beneficiaries

of social housing." In the description of beneficiaries, in addition to household members and income level, other characteristics of the household should be taken into account, such as the fact that it is headed by women.

84. In the Special Law on GBV (Gender-Based Violence), approved in generality by the National Assembly on July 26, 2010, the object of the law is determined: gender equality, undermined by the manifestations of discrimination based on unequal power relations.

85. In order to change the unfavorable statistical framework regarding gender equality it is expected that GBV crime will be the subject of urgent procedure and that prosecution will depend on simple accusation. One of the main innovations is based on the fact that the victim is not allowed to withdraw the accusation and the Public Prosecutor must initiate the first steps within of 48 hours after receiving the accusation and carry out the necessary additional steps in the same time period.

86. This law is governed by principles reflected in the consecration of special rights to victim protection, particularly in the criminal, Labor and social areas: the strengthening of special obligations for the State and other public authorities to adopt public policies for prevention, assistance and prosecution of gender-based violence; the creation or strengthening of institutional structures to combat gender-based violence; the equipment of specialized institutions with adequate resources to achieve their objectives; the creation of conditions to ensure timely, specialized and effective responses to the victims both in terms of police, legal and social services and assurance that all the rights contained in this law are guaranteed equally to foreigners who are in the national territory, regardless of their situation.

87. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was approved by the Council of Ministers on 29 of July 2009 and was forwarded to the National Assembly for ratification. The protocol, which was approved after an internal reflection and debate, not only strengthens the dissemination and visibility of CEDAW, but also demonstrates the Government's commitment to implement it with more accuracy.

88. It should also be noted that the Decree Law on Volunteerism is very positive, due to the pedagogical impact it may have on the legislative production system by using a non-sexist language. It is also important for the fact that the action against "gender inequality", is referred to in its own paragraph as one of the priority areas of intervention of the National Volunteer Program.

89. A process of revision of the Constitution of the Republic is underway in Cape Verde. The Government, through the ICIEG, submitted to the Committee for Constitutional Review a document containing contributions to boost the process of deepening of the principles governing the relations of gender equality. The Committee was requested to eliminate gender stereotypes in language, reproduced in politic and bureaucratic documents, and sexist stereotypes about family responsibilities reproduced by the previous Constitution.

90. It calls for the strengthening of the State competencies to guarantee (a) the principle of equality between women and men in the provision of economic rights and duties, social and cultural rights through education for equal rights and opportunities; (b) responses to the specific health care needs of women and men; (c) implementation of the principle of equality between women and men in access to decent housing, culture, sport and to the information society; (d) the transmission of an egalitarian and plural image and a non stereotypical image of women and men in the media; (e) and the implementation of social programs including support for the creation of childcare institutions for children between 0 and 2 years of age to improve the opportunities for access and permanence of women in the workplace.

91. The document also highlights the need for adoption of the principle of parity in political disputes to compensate for inequality of opportunity, i.e., this proposal is a request to strengthen the principle of equal participation in decision-making processes, the elimination or reduction of inequality and the increased representation of women in elected bodies.

Article 3: Measures to ensure the full development and advancement of Women

92. The Republic of Cape Verde has continued its work to promote women's rights through both Government and non-governmental bodies to raise awareness and to implement concrete measures through projects and programs for the empowerment of Cape Verdean women. The national mechanism for gender equality (ICIEG) and non-governmental women's organizations deal with women's rights in health, culture, economy and the social role that women play in Cape Verdean society, as well their participation in politics and decision-making posts .

93. All the Ministries, along with NGOs for the promotion of women participated in the elaboration of the 2005-2011 National Plan for Gender Equality (PNIEG). The Plan is based on CEDAW principles, on the Beijing Platform Action Plan guidelines and the Millennium Development Goals. Under the PNIEG six priority intervention areas were identified: Economic Opportunities, Education, Health, Women's Participation in Policy and Decision-making Bodies, Gender-based Violence and the Media.

94. As a result of prioritization of gender issues and women's rights after the adoption of the PNIEG, the Government included in the program for the Seventh Parliamentary Term (2006-2011), an item focusing exclusively on the promotion of gender equality, which provides various guidelines including the "Creation of conditions for the implementation of the regional and international Conventions and Charters on gender" and also "To strengthen the institutional capacity of the national mechanisms for gender equality promotion, liaison and coordination of policies relating to the promotion of gender approach and to reduce inequalities still existent."

95. The collection, processing and dissemination of statistical information by the INE, about reproductive health and relations of power in domestic space (IDSR II, 2005), allowed to characterize, at the national level, by region and by areas of residence, the situation of domestic violence against women in its various forms of manifestation. It also allowed measuring the level of social acceptance of violence in marital relations, and unraveling the mechanisms for control of men over women and the limitations in decision-making processes within private environments. It also has information about the limitations of women when negotiating the conditions under which to perform the sexual act.

96. As recommended by the Committee on the dissemination of the CEDAW instrument, a press conference was held in 2006 with all organs of public and private national communication concerning the performance of Cape Verde at the said Committee. The CEDAW text was also disclosed in the 2007 Annual Agenda (2000 copies).

97. In 2007 the institutional mechanism for gender issues, held sectoral meetings with government structures (education, health, statistics) and civil society organizations, with the aim to disseminate the recommendations made by the Committee to the Republic of Cape Verde and draw sectoral strategies for their implementation.

98. Continuing the effort of dissemination of CEDAW, in 2007 the ICIEG edited the Book "Cape Verde and the CEDAW" (500 copies), prefaced by the Prime Minister, which contains the full text of the Convention, the initial report combined with the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth of Cape Verde, the questions of the Committee to the State of Cape Verde and subsequent Responses, the Opening Statement and the Remarks and

Recommendations made to the country. The first entity chosen to present and receive the book was the Cape Verdean Parliament, and a copy was given to each Parliamentary member (72 people).

99. The CEDAW document and the report submitted by Cape Verde in 2006 with all the Remarks and Recommendations made were introduced for download in the cyberspace (Facebook and official site) of the national mechanism responsible for gender issues,

100. In January 2006, the national mechanism responsible for the area of gender was renamed the Cape Verde Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG). Underlying this nomenclature change is the intention to adjust it to the perspective of action and to a strategy of building alliances. This change is also a result of the finding that the use of the Gender and Development approach ensures greater gains by allowing to question the differences in access to resources and services and their benefits and to discuss the status of women and power relations.

101. The purpose of the institution is real equality, taking as starting point the profound inequalities existing between men and women in all areas. Given that situation, the word "equity" was also included in the name of the institution as a strategy to materialize equality by "giving more and more attention to those who most need it." This concept has opened the possibility of implementing measures of positive discrimination in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and also reduce the gap in the situation of men and women.

102. In compliance with the recommendations to strengthen the Institute, the government developed a strong campaign focused on increasing the visibility and credibility of their work. This strategy enabled the ICIEG to integrate various Councils and Committees - Advisory Board of the Institute of Employment and Vocational Training, Council of the Millennium Challenge Account, Micro Finance Advisory Board, Monitoring Committee of the Project of Alternatives Domestic Energy and Management Program of Water Resources and Development Alliance. This guarantees the participation of ICIEG in the design of policies and measures adopted in these areas.

103. The Government (2006) allocated a public building to ICIEG and slightly increased the operating budget, which allowed the recruitment of two permanent staff members (a social communication official and an anthropologist).

104. Due to the obvious lack of resources, IGIEG developed a strategy to mobilize resources thereby strengthening the investment budget and thus ensuring a multidisciplinary technical team - economic area (2), psychology (2), law (1) sociology (1) marketing (1) and management (1). This also enabled ICIEG to subsidize 10 senior professionals (psychologists and lawyers) of the Network of Support to Victims of GBV.

105. The institutional capacity to disseminate women rights and programs and projects undertaken by the national mechanism for gender equality was also strengthened notably through the organization of discussions, publishing articles, brochures, the design of radio programs, newsletters information and conducting awareness campaigns and advertising in public and private television channels.

106. The weekly radio program "Bom dia kriola", broadcast since 2000, has been an important area of information about women's rights on the National Radio.

107. Under the project "Casas do Direito (Legal Houses) ICIEG created in partnership with the Ministry of Justice a program on the Educational radio called "House of Law" which covers essentially the social, economic or health rights of Cape Verdean women. The program is broadcast every Tuesday and Thursday.

108. ICIEG (2008) signed a Protocol to strengthen partnerships with Radio Novas Technologies (New Technologies Radio), the state broadcaster, which has supported the

production of programs addressing gender issues, domestic violence, sexual and reproductive health with focus on women, as is the case of the information program about breast cancer.

109. The Council of Ministers (2007) approved an important instrument, proposed by the Ministry of Justice and the ICIEG, for the planning and implementation of public policies, the 2007-2011 National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence. This instrument was drawn up on the basis of a diagnosis of the situation and plans for the strengthening of legal institutional mechanisms and social responses to protect victims and aggressors. Its limitation lies in the poor treatment of issues relating to sexual harassment, abuse and trafficking in women, due to lack of information in these areas.

110. ICIEG signed in 2008 an agreement with a private television channel for the production of the "TV Women" program which addresses various women's legal, social, economic and health issues.

111. Also in 2008, the Government, through the ICIEG and INE, with financial support from the United Nations System in Cape Verde, published a pocketbook titled Women and Men in Cape Verde –facts and figures in 2008. It integrates the concept of gender, the evolution of gender issues and human rights, existing institutional mechanisms and the objectives of gender policy in Cape Verde. It highlights the role of civil society organizations and presents the situation of women in the country since the settlement until 2008. Statistical information illustrates gender disparities in the country.

112. With a view to deepening the knowledge of the inequalities and acting accordingly, the Government established a partnership agreement (2008) with the African Observatory for Gender Indicators adopting a framework of reference for defining qualitative and quantitative indicators on equality and gender equity and prepared a study on the evolution of women's condition in Cape Verde. As a result, in 2010, the Study IDISA (African Gender Development Index of Woman Condition in Cape Verde) was presented.

113. Since 2009 the Government, through the Ministry of State Reform and in partnership with CNDHC, has maintained a TV campaign called "Citizenship in a minute", in which, inter alia, topics like responsible fatherhood and gender-based violence are covered.

114. Being aware of the importance of planning and development of local policies for gender, in 2009, the Cape Verdean Government provided financial and technical support to two municipalities for the development of the first Municipal Plans of Gender Equality and Equity in Cape Verde. The pilot plans were implemented in the city of Praia, the capital city of the country, where the Head of the Municipal Assembly is a woman, and in the municipality of Paul, where the Mayor is a woman. An identical dossier is being developed in 2010 with two municipalities where the presence of women in the governing bodies is significant.

115. Aimed at developing research, knowledge and training of teachers and technicians from all public sectors the Cape Verdean Government created in 2009 the Gender and Family Study Center at the public University of Cape Verde.

116. In relation to the training program for management personnel of the public sector a module on gender relations was included.

117. In the Republic of Cape Verde, organizations of civil society are highly valued. The government has developed programs, projects and policies relating to gender with the active partnership of women's NGOs, which are considered inescapable allies of the struggle for gender equality and for the empowerment of women in all personal, social, economic, political and cultural areas. They are together with the national mechanism in the implementation of the programs and projects that materialize these plans.

118. Aware that the progress of Cape Verdean women depends largely on strengthening the capacity of Women NGOs, the Government of Cape Verde has supported, through programs and projects, the strengthening of their capacity, including mobilization of funds, support to the creation of new services and facilities, recruitment of more human resources, technical assistance on gender equality and project management. It should be emphasized that all national Women NGOs have received funding for this purpose.

Article 4: Special temporary measures

119. The PNIEG defines guidelines and orientations for the promotion of equal rights between men and women, for visible and effective participation of women in all spheres of social life and is the guiding instrument of public policies on gender. It is a tool with a logic of transversality, which presupposes and promotes the establishment of partnerships between different social actors and sectors and areas of intervention.

120. Its main purpose is to accelerate the construction of real equality of opportunity between women and men. Based on the diagnosis of the situation and identification of the main problems, it proposes a set of positive action measures in different sectors of social structure and models of interpersonal relations directed not only to the public authorities that have the competence to implement them but also to persons individually and/or organized into civil society groups.

121. As a result of its implementation, Cape Verde has achieved in the last four years significant gains on gender equality since it triggered a process of increased awareness on gender issues among the public sectors, legislators, central and local governments.

122. Among the actions developed we should highlight the launching, in cooperation with women's NGOs and the Ministry of Health of two national campaigns linked to health and sexual reproductive health of women - the Campaign to Fight Breast Cancer and the Female Condom Campaign, the former in 2006 and the latter in 2010.

123. In 2008, the national mechanism for gender equality in partnership with all women's organizations mobilized the country around a strong advocacy campaign to increase the participation of women in the decision-making processes in general and specifically to increase the percentage (30%) of women on the eligible lists for local elections in that year.

124. The results of the municipal elections were away from the intended outcome (22%), but the campaign has had a very positive effect at the level of executive power: for the first time in the history of the country two successive Governments (2008 and 2009) had the same number of men and women. In these Governments the areas of justice, national defense, economics, finance, and land decentralization and planning are headed by women.

125. The presence of women in Government has contributed to the development of an environment conducive to the debate of the issues that most affect women and to the implementation of specific measures.

126. The implementation of the PNIEG allowed the adoption of strategies geared to the correction of gender inequalities and to the preparation and implementation of projects aiming exclusively the empowerment of women, namely the creation (2008) of Offices for Orientation and Professional Integration of Women (GOIP) in partnership with a non-governmental organization (OMCV) and the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training, on 3 of the 8 Islands (Santiago, São Vicente and Santo Antão).

127. The Labor Code (2008) devoted a separate chapter to women's rights and integrated domestic work as a profession. The Social Security System (2009) extended its coverage to women working in the informal sector and established equal treatment of maternity leave for both women working in the private sector and for the ones working in the public sector.

128. Also for the first time a legal instrument (National System for Social Housing - 2010), included in its articles (Article 4) a temporary specific measure of positive discrimination for women.

129. The National Parliament also approved, with no votes against and three abstentions, a special law (law on GBV-2010), whose purpose is the promotion of gender equality and combat to gender-based violence, particularly exercised by men against women.

130. The Project + Gender is in the first phase of implementation. It requires concerted action of ICIEG, the Unit for the Coordination of Human Resources of Public Administration and the Ministry of Finance (Directorate General of Planning and Directorate General of Public Accounting) for the introduction of a of gender sensitive planning and budgeting.

131. This project also includes the development of measures to strengthen women's participation in the integration of demands and proposals for gender equity in programming and operational budget of the different sectors and municipalities, as well as a study on time use and the contribution of reproductive activities to the gross domestic product.

Article 5: Elimination of the stereotype of women as inferior

132. The ICIEG, concerned with the lack of objective knowledge of power relations between women and men in Cape Verde, advocated for the introduction in the second Demographic Survey on Reproductive Health, conducted by the National Institute of Statistics, of questions that would characterize the status of Cape Verdean women within households.

133. The findings unraveled major facets of male domination mechanisms upon women, namely on the control of social relationships (44%); on the mobility of women (43%); on the limitations imposed in the management of financial resources (39%), the non-recognition of the decision-making power about their health, shopping, visits to relatives or food to cook (24%); on the control by husbands or partners about how to use the money resulting from the salary that the woman earns (20%); and even in the social acceptance of violence by husband or spouse to punish or discipline women (17%).

134. It also allowed the establishment of the statistical profile of violence (22%) exercised by husband or any other male family member on women, specifically the situations of physical (19%), psychological (16%) and sexual violence (4%), practiced in private space by men against women.

135. Information on acts of violence showed that the highest rates of violence against women occur in urban areas (24%), but this phenomenon also manifests itself intensely in rural areas (19%); the highest rates were recorded on the island of Fogo (34%), in Praia, capital of the country (27%) and in Sal (25%). The lowest rates were recorded on the island of São Vicente (13.9%).

136. The information collected with this diagnosis allows to conclude that there is a huge proportion of Cape Verdean women whose daily life is ruled by a behavioral code anchored in the recognition and acceptance of male dominance, with the result that they have a small space for decision and control, both in terms of organization of their daily routine, their mobility, distribution and use of time and resources.

137. Various measures are being developed which promote the elimination of the inferior status of women, among which the training on gender issues of 25 professionals of Social Communication can be highlighted.

138. This action enabled to improve the quality of information so that they do not transmit stereotypes or negative messages. It also enhanced the promotion of equality and gender equity in public and private media.

139. Other activities carried out within this framework were the development and broadcast of a Radio Course titled "Family School", which among the supporting materials contains the Course Manual of Family School, dealing with issues such as the constitution of the couple, the relationship of the couple, motherhood and fatherhood, the conciliation of family / work life, single-parent family, brothers and sisters, extended family and family-neighbor.

140. For its implementation 23 male and female trainers were trained on family relationships from a gender perspective as well as 405 Animators of Adult Education and Associative and Community Leaders.

141. In keeping the effort to promote a culture of gender equality, a course involving 30 associative leaders was conducted by ICIEG. The Ministry of Education implemented the course on "Gender Relations" for 120 primary teachers from the Island of Santiago. A module on gender relations was also included in the primary teacher education program at the Pedagogical Institute and in the discipline of Personal and Social Development in the courses for Kindergarten Teachers and Educational Sciences at the University of Cape Verde.

142. The Office for Orientation and Professional Integration (GOIP Woman), a body of the NGO, Cape Verdean Women's Organization (OMCV), has established a protocol with the Directorate General of Literacy and Adult Education, whereby women are admitted into literacy courses at any time during the school year.

143. Under the scope of services provided to women who use the GOIP, awareness is raised so that they choose career plans in traditionally male areas. Actions are also undertaken with vocational training Centers in order to encourage them to reserved places for women in areas traditionally sought by men

144. Presently, the creation of a National Vocational Guidance Unit is being planned through the Joint Ordinance of 15 of February 2010 by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor, Vocational Training and Social Solidarity. It is designed to allow a proper insertion into the Labor market and in the workplace of young people. It also has the purpose of working on professional vocational guidance of young women and vocational choices, deconstructing stereotypes related to professions typically considered as adequate for males.

145. Following the process of developing a gender policy in Cape Verde, at the Government level as well as at multiple structures of civil society, especially NGOs, in June 2008 by resolution of the Board of Strategy and Government, the Center for Research and Training on Gender and Family (CIGEF) was created as a unit of the University of Cape Verde (Uni-CV) of interdisciplinary nature, with functions of research and training.

146. The strategic plan of CIGEF defines the guidelines of this Organization for the period 2010-2012, to build a fairer social reality and to promote an environment of knowledge production free from discriminatory conceptions, in terms of gender relations.

147. CIGEF's mission is "to contribute, through studies, research, training and extension activities, for the design, dissemination and implementation of programs, projects and policy measures designed to develop balanced gender and family relations in social, economic, political, scientific and cultural domains"³.

³ UNI_CV, Deliberation no. 10/2008

148. The action of CIGEF, in the period 2010-2012, aims to contribute to the achievement of the defined objectives to develop its institutional mission so as to overcome the specific challenges of institutional situation regarding gender relations and family dynamics.

149. Among the work to be developed during this period the promotion of a culture guided by the principle of gender equality can be highlighted, in institutional contexts, within and outside the Uni-CV, through awareness and training activities and active participation in the design and implementation of intervention policies promoted by governmental and nongovernmental organizations. The CIGEF also intends to boost research on gender and family, in different scientific areas through the dissemination of research policies defined under this plan as well as to support research and communication among researchers, as well as training specialists.

150. The CIGEF in conjunction with the doctoral Unit of Social Sciences of Uni-CV is developing a cycle of Conferences, from May to December 2010, called "Women's viewpoints about Cape Verde". Monthly two works of Cape Verdean experts are presented and debated.

151. The National Plan to Combat Gender-based Violence (GBV), covering the period 2007-2011, is the instrument of operationalization of the PNIEG in this area. It establishes as its general objective the combat against gender-based violence for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.

152. The specific objectives of the Plan include the creation of institutional mechanisms for the prevention of gender-based violence, protection and reintegration of victims and perpetrators victims, and the development of actions promoting a change of mentality. However the strategies do not include the different manifestations of the GBV.

153. Over the past four years, as a result of the implementation of the PNVBG new local networks have been created in 5 of 9 inhabited Islands of the archipelago (Santiago, Sao Vicente, Fogo, Sal and Santo Antao), and have been operating in support of victims of gender-based violence.

154. The Network is coordinated by ICIEG and is composed of civil society organizations and public institutions such as the Health Delegations, the National Police, the Central Hospitals, the Cape Verdean Institute of Children and Adolescents and the Attorney-General of the Republic. Also 6 Police Office Services, specialized in GBV victims – two of which in the nation's capital (Praia), entered into operation. In addition and with the support of the NGO, MORABI, an Office for Psycho Social support of victims of GBV and HIV is in operation.

155. The Project of Forensic Psychology was implemented. This will permit courts to judge cases of GBV thoroughly and to prove all kinds of violence committed against the victims besides physical violence. As a result 50 magistrates were trained in the area of forensic psychology and 26 forensic psychologists were accredited to work directly with the courts.

156. The ICIEG is developing the project for the Training of National Police on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Specialized Assistance to Victims of GBV, whose aim is to contribute towards the implementation of institutional mechanisms to protect the victims of gender-based violence (GBV). By the end of 2011 the project expects to have sensitized and transmitted the necessary knowledge and tools for a professional service for the victims of GBV in national police stations in the municipalities of Santa Catarina and Praia (Santiago) and on the islands of Fogo, Santo Antão, São Vicente and Sal.

157. The first activity of this project was the training of 30 police agents and 16 representatives of public authorities and civil society. It allowed the presentation, by the

police forces, of their experiences in serving the specific victims of GBV and identification of gains obtained and major problems encountered.

158. Also to be highlighted, the creation in 2009, with the support of the ICIEG, of the "Cape Verde White Ribbon" Network. This is a network of men from several professional areas, who are characterized by a strong engagement in promoting gender equality and fostering alliances with other institutions / organizations of civil society that stand for human rights and against gender inequality and all its manifestations, particularly Gender Based Violence (GBV).

159. The White Ribbon Network, comprising more than 60 men, use as a strategy the deconstruction of gender stereotypes that hinder the full assumption of paternity and condition the status of superiority of men over women.

160. The implementation of PNCVBG has a strong component developed by Cape Verdean women's NGOS. In this context they were invited to submit projects to be financially supported by the Government.

161. There are ten NGO projects under PNCVBG, namely: the «Hope Foundation» of the Network of Women Economists, which supports socio-economically women GBV victims assisted by the Sol Network; the creation of a structure/cabinet for psycho-social support to victims of GBV and HIV in Morabi; the study on GBV in the community of immigrant women of the West coast of Africa by RAMOA; the reinforcing of the capacity of the "Funku di Mudjeris" Center, the "Sulada Store" project (handicraft produced by economically vulnerable women) implemented by ACCVE; technical and financial support to the Network of Parliamentarian Women for the elaboration of special law on GBV; an information helpline for victims of GBV, "Dial Citizenship", at Zé Moniz Association premises; the strengthening of the capacity of the Association of Women Lawyers, by recruiting technical staff from legal and accounting area to provide better quality of work; and finally OMCV projects, one on Fogo Island, "ACTIVE LIFE", in partnership with the Nazarene League, to strengthen the office for legal and psychological support, and another one on the three islands where the service GOIP Woman are functional.

162. Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Committee on sexual harassment, the Government has defined the combating of harassment in the implementation of PNVBG, as one of the primary areas of intervention.

163. In this context a Project was developed in partnership with the GOIP Woman that was materialized in the form of an awareness campaign targeted at women users of this cabinet (Santiago, Sao Vicente and Santo Antao) as well as institutions and companies that are part of the cabinet network.

164. In order to ensure access to justice for the victims of GBV, ICIEG signed a protocol with the Ministry of Justice through Legal Houses for free legal assistance to victims of GBV in the 11 structures throughout the country.

165. Several campaigns were promoted by the Government and launched through all audiovisual media aiming to create a social awareness about gender equality and about the status of men and women. The topics covered were: GBV, directed to society in general to increase awareness of people about this social problem. Topics addressed to men intended to promote behavioral change on the practice of GBV and responsible fatherhood and the ones directed to women encouraged them to visit institutions working on the promotion of their rights.

Article 6: Elimination of trafficking in women and forced prostitution

166. The report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, states that Cape Verde is a "transit point for traffickers and

serious concerns persist about juvenile prostitution” (E/CN.4/2003/75/Add.1, paragraphs 134 and 135).

167. The 2009 UNDP Report on Human Development Index refers to migratory flows in Cape Verde, by country of origin (between 2000 and 2010) as follows: 33% from Africa, 3% from Asia, 49.7% Europe, Latin America/Caribbean 0.2% and North America 14%. Since these data are not disaggregated by gender and may already be outdated, the real perception can only be apprehended after the results of 2010 census.

168. In the country the steps taken to combat trafficking, as well as for preventing the exploitation of prostitution and to provide rehabilitation and support for the social reintegration of women (wishing to leave prostitution) were scarce.

169. The Ministry of Justice, through the Coordination Committee for the Fight against Drugs and the Coordination Committee of Fight against AIDS, developed in 2006, a "qualitative study and an estimate of the size of two target populations at risk of HIV/AIDS: users of injectable drugs and sex workers." This includes information about sex workers, but does not mention whether it is a forced prostitution and/or from trafficking.

170. The vast majority of sex workers are of Cape Verdean nationality. Foreign women generally are candidates for migration to Europe and are under the patronage of men that serve as their protectors and for whom they work. According to the police these girls are not inserted into networks and, in certain cases, their protectors have connections in Europe to place girls on arrival.

171. On the 9th of June 2010, the Government of Cape Verde signed a memorandum of understanding with Portugal for the promotion of gender equality. Within this, both the Member States decided to give priority, in its paragraph 2 b) to “prevent the trafficking of women and children” and, in point 3) and (b) agreed on a set of actions to combat “trafficking of women and children both for sexual and working purposes” and “sexual abuse and exploitation”.

172. Although that document does not create rights or obligations under international and/or internal law for the two Member States, it is nonetheless relevant since it demonstrates an awareness of this issue as a major problem and a political will of these countries to tackle this problem through bilateral cooperation at regional level – between Cape Verde and Portugal there is a large migratory flow with Cape Verde as an output port.

173. Moreover, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, together with the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Directorate of Foreign Affairs and Migration, will form a Committee to monitor the drafting of a law relating to foreigner that includes all matters that related to those government departments.

174. Pursuant to the Protocol on the illegal trafficking of migrants and after identification and analysis of needs and constraints of the interested countries, including Cape Verde, UNODC developed a Project to Update National Legislation in light of United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (IMPACT LED). The project will be carried out through the interventions of UNODC, under the Pact Program on Illegal Migration (PPMII).

175. This project aims at the development of laws against the illegal trafficking of migrants and trafficking of human beings in Cape Verde, Ivory Coast and Liberia, as well as training for key national officials to implement laws and mechanisms for international cooperation.

176. Preparatory activities for the project include gap analysis, country by country, facilitating the process of drafting new legislation, institutional support for the submission of the necessary legislation to the legislative bodies and the training of *key actors* in national plans. A study in the context of "organized crime" and illegal migration will be

also carried out with special emphasis on field work to be undertaken in countries of origin, transit and destination.

177. In Cape Verde the project is coordinated by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

178. This regional project will allow the development of a common migration policy within the ECOWAS, through their Committee. The simultaneous development of national legislation against trafficking in migrants, in conjunction with a shared interpretation of the scope, means and mechanisms for national legislation would facilitate the work of the ECOWAS Committee in the formulation and sharing of a regional policy on this phenomenon, which could also complement and strengthen policies and guidelines of ECOWAS on the Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children, including the ECOWAS policy on migration (regional) affairs.

Article 7: Participation of women in public and political life

179. The results of the recent general elections (2006 – 15.1% of women in the Parliament) and of the local elections (2008 - 22.2% of women elected at local level) reveal that the participation of women in public and political affairs has slightly increased. However, it is one of the areas where there is still profound inequality regarding women.

180. In 2006, the action of the ICIEG focused on discussions with the various partner organizations on the intervention strategy to be adopted with the political parties with the aim of increasing women's participation in political power. Two types of strategies were selected - the development of training activities with political leaders, and advocacy campaigns and advertising. Another issue discussed was the choice over the type of proposal to make: quota or parity. The option chosen was parity.

181. For the implementation of the measures, awareness-raising training programs were developed for 30 leaders of youth organizations of major political parties and for 30 political leaders with seats in the National Assembly.

182. A project to increase the representation of women in the lists for the elections of local governments was implemented. As a result, for the first time in the history of the political life of the country four women topped the lists for municipal councils and two were elected.

183. These interventions have raised awareness on the importance of women's participation in political life, resulting in a significant gain for the country - the increasing presence of women in executive power, which since 2008 has held a parity configuration. It is noticeable that three of the seven Magistrates are women. In the public sector the proportion of women occupying leadership positions is 35%.

184. The partnership with the Network of Parliamentary Women was strengthened so that, regardless of their political affiliation, they will continue the work with a view to introduce a gender approach in all areas Parliamentary actions.

185. The support to local authorities to implement municipal gender approach policies, besides enabling two municipalities to prepare their PMIEG, also enabled the National Association of Municipalities to consider, within the framework of the Objectives of the Millennium, as a priority for each municipality to have its Municipal Plan of Gender Equality and Equity.

186. It enabled the discussion at local level about the relevance of increased participation of women in the governing bodies of Community Development Associations.

187. It also allowed for increased support to nongovernmental organizations that work on improving gender relations and women's status, by developing trainer of training programs

on gender and self esteem (40 female trainers) as well as the financing of various projects and interventions.

188. Currently, there are about 9 support Associations to women's development nationwide. The contributions of these associations and of the network of Parliamentary Women to the adoption of a special law on gender-based violence were decisive. This law firstly is an instrument for promoting equality and recognizes gender violence as a manifestation of the exercise of men's power over women.

Article 8: Participation of women in international affairs

189. The norms for entry and progress in diplomatic career, as referred to in the previous report, are held by competition through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the formal point of view there is no discrimination based on gender.

190. The representation of women at the highest levels of Cape Verdean diplomacy is still scarce; in 2010 just two of the 14 diplomatic representations (12 Embassies and 2 permanent missions) were headed by women and of the 4 consulates, 3 women were Chargées d'Affaires.

191. There was some improvement in the last contest for diplomatic career conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities (2008): from the total of seven candidates recruited, four were women and three were men.

192. In relation to the UN Office in Cape Verde, the data tend to show some gender parity: out of the 37 national staff members, 22 were women and 15 men, i.e. 59% of women. In terms of leadership held by national staff (of the UN Program and Operations) 4 out of the seven leadership positions are held by women, therefore, 57% of women.

193. Another important fact is that of FAO's regional Representative is a Cape Verdean Woman, a former Minister in Cape Verde in the 1990s.

Article 9: Nationality of women and their children

194. Constitutional and infra-constitutional legislation, concerning the acquisition or loss of nationality do not admit any kind of sex discrimination, which means that men and women have equal rights in this context.

195. This issue has already been dealt with in the Initial Report, and there are no changes to be reported.

Article 10: Equal rights between men and women: area – education and sports

196. The right to education is equally guaranteed to boys, girls, men and women. The Constitution of the Republic of Cape Verde, in article 49, and respective paragraphs, is clear as regards to the freedom of all to learn, educate and teach. The right to physical culture and sport is also constitutionally recognized in article 79 and other items of the Cape Verdean Constitution.

197. On 17th May 2010, a Legislative Decree of the Government substantially changed the Basic Law on Foundations of Education Systems (LBSE). This Decree (Decree-Law No. 2 of 2010) revises the foundations of the educational system, approved by law No. 103/III/90, which defined the main principles of organization and functioning of the education system, whether public, private or cooperative.

198. The Legislative Decree of the Government (article 4) lays down the right and duty of all citizens to education and (article 6) stipulates free access to the educational system for all individuals, regardless of their age, gender, socioeconomic level, cultural, intellectual, or religious belief or philosophical conviction.

199. Article 12 provides that the education system comprises the subsystems of pre-school education, school education and extra-school education, supplemented by school sport activities and socio-educational support and complements.

200. Pre-school education aims to complement or supplement family educational responsibilities (article 12). Among the innovations introduced by the new law the need for more appropriate regulation on the pre-school sub-system stands out, favoring the development of an integrated policy with a view of extending the conditions for the generalization of pre-school education. The relevance of this regulation is explained by the fact that nearly 38% of Cape Verdean children aged between 3 and 5 years do not attend pre-school. (38% girls and 37% boys).

201. The number of pre-school teachers is 1.028 and is exclusively composed of female kindergarten teachers and monitors.

202. School education (article 12) comprises the subsystems of basic, secondary and higher education and also includes special education and leisure time activities.

203. Basic education (article 23) will comprise three sequential cycles: the first of four years and the second and third of two years each, in progressive sequential articulation, which gives every cycle the function of completing, deepening and widening the previous cycle from the perspective of global unity. The new law provides for the extension of compulsory free basic schooling for eight years. If we take into account that the net admission rate in secondary education is 35.7% (39.8% for girls and 31.7% for boys, this measure will have important consequences since many children complete only 6 years of schooling.

204. Basic Education is the one that attracts the largest number of teachers, (3.118 out of the total number of teachers at all school levels). Among these 67% are women and 33% are men.

205. Secondary Education (article 26), which will be of four years, will comprise two cycles of two years each. The 1st cycle comprises the 9th and the 10th years of schooling with general studies for consolidation of basic education and vocational orientation. The 2nd cycle, covering the 11th and 12th years of schooling, will include a general and a technical stream of studies.

206. In secondary education, the number of teachers is 2.587, representing 33.3% of the total number. Among these 1.105 (43%) are women and 1.482 (57%) are men.

207. The law establishes that the State should promote the creation of conditions for extending compulsory schooling until the twelfth year (article 13).

208. Higher education is the level with the largest annual growth over the period 2004 to 2008 (21%). In the academic year 2008/2009, in the Public University, women represented 50.9% of enrolments. In higher vocational (short-term) and in science and technology courses the presence of men is predominant, while women predominate in sciences and humanities. In Master's degree programs 38.6% of enrolments were from women.

209. In higher education, the presence of female teachers is inferior to men's (42.8%), and their academic education is slightly lower than men's: 64% of women and 56% of men had a university degree and 32% and 35% respectively had a master degree. Only 3.5% of women and 8% of men had doctoral degrees.

210. The new law eliminates middle school degree and the Bachelor's degree from the formal education system. The middle school degree was intended only for training of primary school teachers for Basic Education of six years, and given the new requirements in education, it became insufficient. Therefore teachers for this level of education need a university degree. Regarding the Bachelor's Degree, with the structure adopted for higher education to fit the Bologna Process, this degree is no longer relevant.

211. Extra school education (article 12) covers programs of literacy, post literacy, vocational training and general learning in conjunction with school education. The new diploma advocates for increased generalization of second educational opportunities (recurring distance learning, adult education/training), in order to expand the offer of opportunities for socio-professional courses.

212. This measure is of paramount importance considering that this subsystem is mainly demanded by women - in 2007/2008 there were 2.260 enrolments, of which 58% were of women.

213. The educational system also incorporates the component of technical-professional education, which is closely articulated with the national system of vocational training and learning.

214. In this field of technical and vocational education, gender inequalities can be noticed in relation to both teachers and students. According to the Diagnosis on Gender (2009), the percentage of women's participation (39%) at institutions for technical and vocational education is much lower than men's (61%).

215. Regarding students access, the same diagnosis shows that in technical schools, the participation of female students is 44% and for boys is 56%, which means a significant gender gap. Usually the girls attend the areas of studies related to Accounting, Business Administration, Business Management and Graphic Arts while boys attend more the areas of Electrical Installations, Civil Construction, Electricity and Mechanics.

216. In vocational training Centers involvement of male (53%) and female (47%) students is well balanced. The trend is similar to that of technical schools. Women opt for areas such as Fashion and Aesthetics, Management and Administration, Tourism and Cooking, while men opt more for areas such as Civil Construction and Agriculture.

217. As regards to the rates of school success, in both cases women present higher percentages.

218. In 2006, the CEDAW Committee recommended a study on the impact of the measure adopted by the Government in 2001 to suspend the registration of young teenagers from schools during pregnancy and allow their return only after childbirth. In compliance with this directive the ICIEG, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, conducted in 2009/2010, the study "Assessing the Impact of the Temporary Withdrawal of Pregnant Students of Secondary Education."

219. The study concluded that most of the suspension of registration due to pregnancy, were proposed by school boards, at times when the students felt well and had satisfactory school results, having to interrupt their school trajectory, when they could have been supported socially and educationally in order to finish the school year and proceed to the next one. Between 2002 and 2008, 68% of cases of suspension resulted in school failure: 42% of the students who suspended the registration did not return to school and 44% of those returning did not pass the year in which they were reinserted.

220. It also showed that the students who left school did not enter the labor market and depend on their families. However, pregnant students who did not suspend the registration had a favorable academic performance, demonstrating that pregnancy is not incompatible with a good academic performance.

221. The study revealed that the satisfaction of school staff with the measure is associated with preservation of morality, a good image of the school, which is considered appropriate to adolescence, and that there is a negative social representation in relation to teenage pregnancy.

222. It showed that, in schools, no conditions were created for an approach towards teenage pregnancy: lack of action to train teachers on sex education, lack of spaces for information and debate on sexual and reproductive rights in adolescence, and mechanisms for advice and support to pregnant students/mothers.

223. The ICIEG, taking into account the obvious need to respect the commitments of the international and regional conventions ratified by Cape Verde, as well as the results of the study, proposed that its tutelage Minister requests the Ministry of Education to revoke the order of 2001 "Guidelines for better management of the issue of pregnancy in schools", and the creation and implementation of a specific regulation that enables the reconciliation of pregnancy and motherhood with studies starting from the academic year 2010/2011.

224. The overall goal for the education sector established by the PNIEG is "to promote school as a privileged site of positive socialization on gender, as well as a catalyst of good practice in equality and gender equity". The specific objective is described as "instilling consistency into educational practices and values that students are expected to develop on gender equity," which reflects the policy intention of promoting equality and gender equity in school.

225. The ICIEG worked with the Curriculum Development Unit, the Government Department responsible for curricula development, to ensure that PNIEG guidelines would be taken into account in their future actions of curriculum development, and proceeded to the examination of documentation produced by the Unit.

226. As a result of this exercise it produced a document entitled "Contributions to the Curriculum Development" in which it notes that there is no explicit institutional intention to denaturalize the relations of inequality between women and men, or promote gender equality and gender relations change. The document further stresses that no guidelines have been issued to eliminate, either in writing or in oral speech, formulas of discrimination or exclusion and to avoid graphic elements which transmit a stereotypical image (colors, details, symbols, activities, etc)⁴.

227. It was suggested to the Ministry that the objective of the PNIEG for the education sector should be integrated into the curriculum framework document and that the system assumes itself as an educational tool aiming at denaturalizing inequality relations between women and men. The educational system should be a promoter of gender equality by eliminating from oral and written speeches all forms of discriminatory language. It was also suggested that the graphics should not transmit a stereotypical image of men and women, they should express a willingness to change gender relations, and that gender equality should be explicitly expressed in all transversal themes.

228. The University of Cape Verde and the Primary Teacher Training Institute are the institutions responsible for the training of human resources with specific preparation in this area. Therefore the programs of personal and social development of these institutions should include a module on Gender Relations.

229. Jean Piaget University of Cape Verde in collaboration with the ICIEG and OMCV are partners in a European Union funded project that has as direct beneficiaries 80% of young women (attending secondary and higher education) and 20% of men in similar circumstances. The main objectives of this project are to contribute to poverty reduction by

⁴ ICIEG.2009. Contributions to Curriculum Development. Education for Equality Project.

increasing knowledge on HIV/AIDS, gender equality, food security and nutrition, through actions focused on creative and innovative use of ICT. The project aims at combating info-exclusion, particularly among women.

230. The right to physical culture and sport is constitutionally recognized in article 79 and other items of Cape Verdean Constitution as a right of all citizens.

231. The area of sports over the years has been under the tutelage of several government departments, but since 2008 it has been managed by the Ministry of Youth and Sport. This area has had a gap in terms of systematic dissemination of data disaggregated by gender.

232. Regarding sport teams the report of the Directorate General for Sports (2010) stated that rhythmic gymnastics is practiced only by girls and women, as for in indoor sports (handball and volleyball) the same number of male teams exists.

233. Regarding women's representation in the governing bodies, the same document shows that there are seven federated sports, of which one (handball) is headed by a woman. In another federation the position of vice-presidency is occupied by a woman. The National Gymnastics Committee is headed by a woman. Regarding technical staff (referees and coaches) female participation is residual, but there are already some female referees.

234. The Directorate-General for Sport has implemented policies aimed at the inclusion of female athletes and leaders as a means of integration. The Young Athlete Scholarship Program, which aims at rehabilitation of children and youth at social and family risk and talent capture, gives special attention to sports training of girls. The objective of this program is to ensure minimum conditions that enhance sport and school productivity of the female recipients, prevent / minimize sport and school dropouts for lack of resources.

235. The incentive program for Sport Initiation Schools provides materials and sporting equipment for all the projects submitted to this Directorate-General and anticipates that a significant part of the training team will be made up of women (monitors).

236. Activities for training, leadership and sports medicine, promote women's participation and, consequently, their inclusion in the sports world. They include the provision of university and secondary school scholarships (in country) for sports agents, including female athletes and referees.

237. The design and planning of School Youth Sport Days for Girls offer the prospect of increased participation opportunities for girls and women in the practice and management of sports.

238. In 2009, the ICIEG and the Directorate-General of Sport established a partnership agreement aimed at promoting women's participation in sports. Under this partnership the ICIEG facilitated lectures on the theme human rights and citizenship and women's participation in sports.

239. Under the National Campaign to Prevent Breast Cancer, Women's Sports Conferences were also developed. The sports covered were Handball, Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis, Athletics, Gymnastics and Martial Arts, including all the islands and a total of 28 associations.

240. In addition, the participation of a female team in a regional basketball tournament was financially supported by ICIEG with the aim of promoting the practice of sports at competition level among women.

Article 11: Equal rights of men and women to work

241. In Cape Verde, according to the current law, no person can be passed over, harmed or discriminated against in access to employment, working conditions, labor remuneration,

suspension or termination of the employment relationship or in any other legal labor situation, on the basis of sex.

242. Furthermore, no one can be discriminated against, either regarding the usufruct of contractual and legal compensations allocated to all workers in general or because of the degree of productivity and the specific working conditions.

243. Chapter III of the Labor Code, devoted to women's rights, is one of the greatest achievements in addressing women's work. It recognizes domestic employment as a professional category, following the completion of a study by the national institution for promoting gender equality, on the situation of female domestic workers (4th employment niche of women in the country).

244. In order to improve the access of women to work, some projects are being implemented since 2008 aiming at their education and employability. Also in the implementation of the PNIEG some criteria of positive discrimination for women are being assumed by different institutions.

245. As a result the projects implemented or in the implementation phase whose target groups are poor women who are heads of household, benefited approximately 2.000 women with training in micro finance and small business management, bread production, pastry, nutrition, small business management, ceramics, entrepreneurial skills, and basic management and associativism.

246. In 2008, guidelines were given in the area of vocational training for the implementation of discriminatory / positive actions in favor of women and promotion of their access to traditionally male areas of work. As a result, the number of trained women in vocational training (638) and technical education (689) Centers increased. Training in traditionally male fields is also worth noting, as is the case with female masons (30) and painters (40) for civil construction.

247. The Municipality of Praia, which has a Municipal Plan for Gender Equality, used the fact of "being a woman" as tie-breaker criterion for the competition in the recruitment of municipal guards. It has also implemented since 2009 a Scholarship Program for Kindergarten Children, which has benefited nearly 170 children. This Program, besides allowing children's access to preschool education, also improves the conditions for women's access to and permanence at work.

248. A strategy for the promotion of employability and poverty reduction is ensuring women's access to credit. For this purpose nearly 42,000 USD were made available for the period 2010-2011, to be run by women's NGOs.

249. In the period 2008-2010, 85.7% of the credit made available by the Federation of Associations of Micro Finance was allocated to women. The evolution of the proportion of women who benefited from this credit illustrates the positive discrimination for women in this context: 69.2% in 2008, 82.5% in 2009 and 96.9% in the first half of 2010.

250. Under the project "Reducing distances: access to employment and empowerment of women in Cape Verde" the Offices for Orientation and Professional Insertion of Women (GOIP Women) were created, which cover three islands. These offices are intended principally to facilitate women's empowerment (autonomy and capacity) from a perspective of development and fight against poverty.

251. As part of their activities the Offices carry out evaluation, diagnosis and specialized psychological counseling tailored to the personal and professional characteristics of the women users; they also provide adequate information, advice and guidance to each user's profile in order to facilitate insertion and/or job retention by promoting women's skills and employability, motivating them to training and retraining as a means of optimizing conditions for their integration into the Labor market.

252. Over a period of two years the offices attended around 1.715 women, of which 300 got a job and 363 were included in vocational training programs.

253. The “Funko das Mulheres” was created in Cidade Velha with the aim to inform, train, qualify professionally and promote employment opportunities for women heads of household. About 50 women attended literacy classes, which were followed (from July 2008) by training courses under the responsibility of various professionals on jewelry, tapestry, weaving, sewing, drawing and dress-making, sisal and “pano de terra” work, healing plants, natural cosmetics and management of small business. The trainees of this project became manufacturers. They created five organized groups that jointly manage the process of production, commercialization and benefit sharing⁵

254. A Women’s Training Center was built by an NGO and came into operation in 2009 with the financial support from ICIEG with a daily intake capacity of 300 trainees. This Centre develops training in management of micro enterprises, business plans, basic accounting, financial management, credit agents, secretariat and public relations.

255. The preparation of Municipal Plans for Gender Equality is one of the actions of PNIEG. This activity has been incorporated by the National Association of Municipalities in the Millennium Goals Action Plan (2009). Two municipalities have already developed such plans (2009), and two are in preparation (2010). This process is supported by ICIEG, technically and financially and the methodology used in its preparation and implementation allows the active participation of women at all stages.

256. In the municipality of Paul the projects being implemented consider the fact of “being a woman” in the recruitment of labor force as preferential criterion. These projects cover two communities and benefited directly about 100 female heads of household.

Article 12: Equal rights of men and women in the field of health care

257. In 2007 the Cape Verdean Government formulated a national health policy [PNS], which defines the new framework for the national health system. This determines that health protection is a good that belongs to everyone, a right based on the principles of solidarity, equality of access and utilization of health services, ethics, cultural identity, and equality between the sexes, in decision-making and utilization of health services.

258. The network of public health structures is composed of two central hospitals, 3 regional, twenty-two health Centers, thirty-four health stations, one hundred and seventeen basic health units and two mental health Centers. There are five Centers for reproductive health, which represents a gain of three Centers since 2006. Reproductive health services are provided in all health Centers in the country.

259. According to data collected by INE (QUIBB 2006), the coverage of health services is considered acceptable: 73.5% of the population can access healthcare services in less than 30 minutes (88% in urban areas and 61% in rural areas) and 89% of respondents expressed their satisfaction with the services provided. The reasons for dissatisfaction are the long waiting time for service (51.3%), the high cost of services (27%) and lack of medicine (13%).

260. Another instrument for the implementation of the national health policy is the National Program for Reproductive Health (PNSR). This program takes a gender approach and aims to contribute to the full sharing of the responsibilities of women and men on all aspects of the family, sexual and reproductive behavior and the practice of family planning.

⁵ Funded by the United Nations, ICIEG, Spanish Association for Cooperation and Development and Galician Cooperation.

261. Among the competences of the PNSR are the rendering of promotional preventive and curative care specific to the area of comprehensive women's health care and support for training doctors, nurses, assistants and other technical staff. It also gives full attention childhood diseases, performs technical supervision of the activities undertaken by health Centers, medicine management, vaccines and other specific pharmaceuticals.

262. All reproductive health services are free, but in 2009 symbolic payment fees were introduced to ensure sustainability to the system. However, free service is guaranteed to users who cannot afford to pay to pay those fees.

263. PNSR implementation has been improving the indicators related to women's health: it allowed increasing coverage to pregnant women from 97% in 1998 to 98.1% in 2005. The percentage of births assisted nationally is 80.7%, being the proportion in urban areas (91%), much larger than in rural areas (63.5%). Maternal mortality fell significantly from 88.2 per hundred thousand in 2000 to 35.7 per hundred thousand in 2006.

264. Contraceptive prevalence among women, increased between 1998 and 2005, 46% to 57.1%, being this significant increase in rural areas: 30.7% to 49.3%. In urban areas has remained the same index (63%). The most widely used methods of contraception are condoms (12%) and the pill (6%). The age group among women who use less contraception is the 15-19 years (23%).

265. Women, however, continue to be more exposed than men on sexually transmitted infections, since they protect themselves less in sexual relations (according to IDSR II, 72% of men and 46% of women reported protecting themselves using condoms). This attitude is a manifestation of the deep-rooted inequalities in the exercise of sexuality, and highlights the difficulties of women to control and negotiate under what conditions they maintain sexual relations.

266. The National Center for Health Development is the health structure in charge of information and communication services and plays an important role in connecting communities towards health promotion, as well as inter-ministerial partnerships. The partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sport stands out, which, through the Youth Centers, develops activities with young people about the importance of reproductive health, violence in the dating period, contraception and responsible fatherhood.

267. The NGO Verdefam has structures in 5 Islands (Santiago, Sao Vicente, Fogo, Santo Antão and Sal), providing services in reproductive health, including family planning service, additional tests, ultrasound, colonoscopy, cytology, pregnancy test, HIV-AIDS test, and gynecological consultation.

268. They also develop information activities, education and communication focused on issues such as prevention of abortion, contraception among others. They offer free consultations of general practitioners

269. They also have a mobile station for working with populations with high rates of risky behavior, namely, sex workers and drug users. This allows the gynecological consultations, HIV testing, consultation and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STI).

270. In the prevention of maternal mortality, they conduct training for young women in vulnerable localities in areas such as the importance of breastfeeding, contraception, pregnancy periodic consultations, prevention and transmission of HIV and nutrition during pregnancy. They also produce audiovisual material on contraception and develop lectures on contraception in high schools and communities.

271. With regard to tracking and monitoring of activities, each center produces an activity report monthly, quarterly and semi-annually for approval by the Board of Verdefam, which are subsequently submitted for the approval of the lenders (IPPF, the International

Federation for Family Planning). From the standpoint of compliance with ethical criteria, the technicians receive periodic training in various fields and Verdefam clinics are supervised by the Ministry of Health

272. The report of the National Strategic Plan on AIDS for the period 2006-2010 shows that Civil Society Organizations implemented eight projects targeted exclusively to women, in a total of 488 projects developed by them.

273. The prevention of vertical transmission (PVT) began in Cape Verde in 2005 with the training of health personnel and creation, within Reproductive Health Centers of services for the prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child. Report data indicate a significant evolution in terms of adherence to voluntary counseling and HIV screening of pregnant women from 1.156 in 2005 to 7.405 in 2008. Currently the coverage in terms of PVT is 71% of pregnant women receiving prenatal services (about 94.9% of pregnant women in Cape Verde have prenatal).

274. Since 2007, the ICIEG develops annually and in conjunction with other partners, a campaign called the national campaign for the prevention of breast cancer, designed to inform and alert the population in General and, in particular, women about the importance of breast self-examination for early detection of disease. This campaign is part of the objective of PNIEG related to improving access to health services and the need to promote the quality of women's health.

275. The ICIEG together with various partners (CCSSIDA VERDEFAM, Directorate-General for Youth, MORABI) undertook various actions, including: awareness of community associations on gender and HIV/AIDS counseling; exchange of experience and information sharing between young people and volunteers of the youth Centers; awareness of fathers and mothers of young people attending Youth Centers; training of volunteers in reproductive health from a gender perspective; technical training in Specific health Care (SSR/HIV-AIDS), strengthening the capacity of screening of genital neoplasm.

Article 13: Equal rights of men and women in the areas of economic and cultural life

276. In Cape Verde, some difficulties still remain in the effective implementation of constitutional rights and other legal provisions concerning equal opportunities for men and women in the economic sector.

277. Women's incomes are lower than men's, unemployment affects them more and poverty is deeper in households headed by women.

278. Given these findings, the PNIEG set as a strategic objective for the economic area, the increase of women's income and reduction of their poverty, as well as the development of equal opportunities for women and men in employment access and retention.

279. Currently the intervention is aimed at boosting the design of a macroeconomic policy by incorporating the various roles of women and men in economic activity, as well as by deepening the knowledge about the existing social dynamics that block the differential access of men and women to sources of income and economic resources.

280. Some information to give more visibility to women's reproductive work will be produced. In this context the study on the use of time in 2011 should be mentioned

281. The GPRSP (2008-2012) outlined as a strategy the promotion of women's entrepreneurship and the strengthening of the correlation between the professional/educational system and the labor market. In the first phase of implementation, formative units were installed in 5 of the 45 secondary schools throughout the country, which contribute to the articulation between formal education and vocational training.

282. Other important areas of intervention outlined in the PRSP are the promotion of equity and fairness in tax collection and distribution of resources, from a gender perspective, as well as the improvement of women's access to credit and the development of training programs for the creation of small businesses.

283. The Social Cohesion Program (2010-2012) includes vocational training as an instrument for combating poverty. The program implements the project "Youth and Social Cohesion" which through partnerships with public and private institutions, carries out specific actions for single mothers and women heads of households.

284. In the framework of the Social Protection Development Strategy, Centers for Social Development will be established in all councils. These structures execute the guidelines for social protection policies. As the economic situation of households headed by women is more difficult, the actions of the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity emphasize the safety and security of vulnerable families, particularly families headed by women. The Operational Plan for Social Protection will be implemented in three municipalities (Praia, Porto Novo and Santa Catarina) of the 22 municipalities of the country.

285. The Cape Verdean Institute of School Social Action (ICASE), implements actions ranging from assistance to school canteens; scholarships (students of EBI and Secondary), school health, tuition allowances, transportation and school materials and accommodation in school residences.

286. Within the framework of social action, some municipalities have been developing with the support of foreign partners housing support programs, ranging from simple repair actions to the construction of social housing, support to low income families through a symbolic monthly rent, national and international scholarships, scholarships for preschool children and scholarships for vocational training.

287. On the Survey of Community Development Associations (2009) the surveyed associations claim to act in activities that have a positive impact particularly on women's lives and family life conditions, namely social housing (58%), kindergarten (19%) and water fountains.

288. The Cape Verdean Social Security System has two schemes: the contributory, managed by the National Institute of Social Security (INPS) and the non-contributory managed by the National Centre for Social Pension (CNPS).

289. The CNPS was created through Resolution No. 6/2006 of 9 of January and came into effect during the second half of 2007. It is one of the main tools in the field of social protection, ensuring the strengthening of the social safety network targeted at the social layers of the population in poor conditions and / or at risk of social exclusion, especially elderly and disabled persons unable to develop any professional occupation.

290. According to information obtained from the National Centre for Pensions, women represent 64.8% of total beneficiaries and, from those, over half are women from rural areas.

291. More than 68% of beneficiaries of basic pension for persons aged more than sixty years are women. In the case of invalidity pension for persons aged more than eighteen years, nearly 61% of beneficiaries are women.

292. In Cape Verde the most significant cultural activities are: dance, music, painting, photography and theater. It is in the musical area that the country has a most remarkable international projection.

293. There are no systematized and/or disaggregated data by gender on the participation of the population in the various cultural activities, but in general the participation of women in theatre groups and dance is significant.

294. In the musical panorama, musical groups exclusively composed of men are outstanding. Women are more outstanding as singers.

295. Men are generally instrumentalists and represent the majority in artistic painting and photography, as well as in the management of existing cultural groups.

Article 14: Rural women

296. The nature of the work connected with the rural world – agriculture, cattle-raising and rural constructions - are often vulnerable and characterized by the seasonal and precarious nature of employment contracts especially with regard to conditions and forms of payment.

297. Agriculture is typically exploited by households. According to the Agricultural Census of 2004 there are 44.506 farms in Cape Verde, 99.8% of which are of family-type exploitation. The contribution of agriculture to GDP remains relatively stable and low at about 8 to 10%. Agriculture employs approximately 14% of the active workforce.

298. According to the Agricultural Census of 2004, women are strongly present as unpaid family workforce, particularly in dry land properties, while permanent paid workforce in irrigated farms is predominantly male.

299. The situation of women in rural areas is more difficult than that of women in the urban environment, concerning the activity they perform, the depth of poverty, or access to health and education. In 2007, in rural areas, the proportion of households headed by women (50.1%) was higher than in urban areas (41.0 %), illiteracy rate among women was 35.8% (20.5% in urban areas). The proportion of child births assisted in health facilities in rural areas (76.1%) is also less than in urban areas (94.7%).

300. According to data from the Census of agriculture 2004, 50.5% of family farms are headed by women, which is a new phenomenon in the Cape Verdean context. Despite this, it should be stressed that these women managed mostly dry land farms, which are less productive, therefore with lower income.

301. The increasing presence of women in farming leadership doesn't mean they are the owners of these lands, because in Cape Verde, indirect forms of land exploitation are still important - 21% of farms are operated in partnership and 12.5% devoted to tenant farming.

302. In partnership with the FAO, the Ministry of Environment, Rural Development and Marine Resources, held a "Diagnosis of national legislation on gender approach in the management of water resources and land", with the aim to examine the legal and institutional framework in Cape Verde, in a perspective and approach of gender-based issues with regard to access and use of land, land planning and management but also with regard to water access and management.

303. The study concluded that in agriculture the current legal framework complies with the principle of equality between men and women in all laws relating to access, control and use of land, but, in general, this sector is almost completely omitted by legislation.

304. It also concluded that the legislative omission creates situations of gender inequality, because being the women the majority and the motor of the agriculture sector, the legislative silence affects them more. This statement is based on what happens in the private sectors, which are the richest and completely dominated by men. These sectors have almost a full rate of legislative coverage.

305. The Program to Combat Rural Poverty (PLPR) aims to reduce poverty in rural areas through the development of the social capital of the rural poor people, the mobilization of the potential of economic and social initiative of local communities, their leaders and partners, both in civil society and in the administration. To ensure that at all stages of

planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of PLPR projects the gender perspective is taken into account, the program has launched a public tender for the recruitment of a gender specialist. The ICIEG integrates the jury for recruitment.

306. Community Development Associations (CDA) are organizations of rural communities that ensure the management and implementation of micro-projects and other activities of PLPR at that level. The CDAs are responsible for mobilizing and training communities in order to enable them to identify and execute the micro projects to combat poverty.

307. The CDAs include among the fundamental criteria for selecting beneficiaries of the projects, single-parent families headed by women, which ensures that women are well represented in the target audience of PLPR. An example to illustrate this is the case of social housing constructions – out of the 543 recipients, 278 (51%) were women.

308. The Regional Committees of Partners (CRP), responsible for PLPR management at local level, are autonomous entities governed by private law integrated by CDA, as local communities' representatives, by representatives of civil society, local administration and State deconcentrated administration.

309. Law 35/VI/2003 stipulates that the CRPs shall ensure compliance with the principle of "equality in gender representation". However there is a weak female presence in these organizations: in 2007 out of a total of 245 members only 35 were women (14%).

310. This result stems directly from the weak presence of women in the governing bodies of CDAs, particularly as the Chair of the Governing Board (11.1%), who typically represents the CDA in CRP.

311. The PLPR operates in several areas including the field of training in Income Generating Activities (AGR) and Agricultural Credit. In 2007, under the PSGD - Social Development Program for the Disadvantaged - a sum of 81.000.000ECV was offered for micro-credit. Out of the 4755 beneficiaries, 3890 (81.8%) were women in rural areas of the country.

312. The National Plan for Domestic Energies (PNED) has the specific objective of "meeting the demand of cooking energy in a sustainable manner, minimizing the negative impact on health and environment". Its outcome indicators have a gender approach to ensure that women are included, both through the benefits of the project as well as in its implementation and management.

313. According to the QUIBB 2006, in the countryside only 27% of households headed by women have access to drinking water through the public network and 47.7% through public fountains. Under the actions of PLPR relating to water and sanitation out of 25,2% beneficiaries, 10.569 (41.9%) were women.

314. The Strategy for Agriculture Development on the 2015 Horizon that advocates the relaunching of Cape Verdean agriculture as an economic activity that supports durable living conditions of rural populations, adopts the concept of "new agriculture", recommends the introduction of new technologies in agriculture and specifically as its target female landowners.

315. Two associations for the support of women's development released between 2006 and 2010 about 9.000.000 USD, for the financing of micro credits, covering a total of 19.960 women. Among these only 2,282 (11%) were from rural areas.

316. An international NGO which supports about 12.000 families in rural areas declares that the largest dossier is the one of single-parent families headed by women. Such support covers the granting of micro-credits and training in areas such as human rights, health, education, child development, nutrition among others.

317. Under the international and national cooperation and partnerships some projects are implemented aiming at the empowerment of rural women and also the employability of women heads of poor household, namely: The Pilot Project for Female Entrepreneurship, Pilot Project for Conversion of Women Sand Collector (rural women from fishing zones), The Integrated Project for Food Security aimed mainly at "rural illiterate female heads of household of different councils of Santiago Island".

318. Biweekly the Ministry of Agriculture broadcasts a television program dedicated to the rural world called "HÁ MAR, HÁ TERRA" ("There is Sea, There is Land"), which has a gender approach. Some episodes were devoted exclusively to the problems of women in rural areas.

Article 15: Equal treatment with regard to legal capacity and choice of domicile

319. As referenced in the Initial Report, article 50 of the Constitution of the Republic guarantees to all men and women the right to leave and enter freely the national territory, as well as the freedom to emigrate to other countries, i.e. there is an equal treatment in relation to the choice of domicile.

320. The law allows everyone access to justice and courts, to advocacy services to protect their rights and interests, even free access when the person cannot afford to pay those services (article 21, Constitution in force).

321. Access to justice is guaranteed to every person and the conditions for obtaining legal assistance provided by law are not based on the applicants' gender but mainly on their economic situation (Law no. 35/III/88).

322. Affirmative measures are being implemented and strengthened to improve women's legal capacity and access to justice. Three gateways to access (closely linked to each other) justice for women were created and/or strengthened: the Association of Women Lawyers, the *Sol Network* and the Legal Houses. The increase in the number of services provided and the type of cases illustrate the improvement in access to justice.

323. The Cape Verdean Association of Women Lawyers, in the period of 2005-2009 held 854 free legal consultations for women.

324. The *Sol Network*, a network of support for victims of GBV, coordinated nationally by ICIEG, is increasing its coverage - in 2006 it acted on two islands and in 2010 it is acting on six islands (Santiago, Fogo, Brava, Sao Vicente, Sal and Santo Antao), providing, among other types of support, free legal assistance. According to the available data since 2006, 3,189 women have been attended. Of the total attendance 1.9% were done in 2006, 25.2% in 2007, 28.6% in 2008, 31.6% in 2009 and 12.6% in the first quarter of 2010.

325. The Legal Houses under the Ministry of Justice reported 544 legal assistance to women in 2008, 674 in 2009 and 818 in the first half of 2010. Initially (2007) there was only one House of Law: Currently there are 12 (covering seven islands). Of the total visits, 26.1% were conducted in 2008, 32.3% in 2009 and 41.6% in the first half of 2010.

326. In the Houses of Law, the number of reported cases of domestic violence has declined (they represented 30.3% of the reports in 2008 and 19.3% in 2010), while the proceedings on alimony (from 42.5% to 50.8%) and fatherhood (from 6.4% to 18.2%) have increased.

Article 16: Equal rights to men and women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations

327. The legal framework of issues relating to marriage and family relations, which establishes the same rights and duties for women and men in family relationships has not changed since the presentation of the Initial Report in 2006.

328. The statistical information available reveals that from 1960 up to the present there has been a significant decrease in marital unions by marriage, because the percentage for this marital status went down from 29.2% at that time to 19.1% in 2000, with a sudden decline between 1990 and 2000.

329. Almost at the same rate of that decline, conjugal life outside marriage is increasing - cohabitation in 1980 represented 12.7% of the total, 16.6% in 1990 and 25.4% in 2000. It was also noticed that the number of divorces and/or legal separations nearly tripled between 1990 (1.1%) and 2000 (3.3%). Among the population surveyed on the IDSR II (2005) about 0.1% of women between 15 and 19 years declared to be married and 0.8% to live in cohabitation.

330. The data show that living as a couple is an agreement between spouses, who do not consider it necessary to submit this agreement to an institutional sanction (either church or registry office). Divorce or separations are increasing as alternatives when the relationship does not respond to the expectations of both spouses.

331. According to the current legislation a family entails a marital relationship between persons of different sex, previously approved by law, through marriage or recognition of the *de facto* union.

332. This leads us to the standard definition of *family*, consisting of a man and a woman and their children. In this concept of family, morals and spatial context of coexistence appear as fundamental a element, which ultimately excludes the myriad of forms presented by the family in Cape Verde and symbolically contributes to the stigmatization of so-called single-parent families headed by women.

333. The analysis of the existing situation and the important role played by the family as a central element for socialization induced the Government to set a structuring axis for intervention with families, namely, the Family Support and Care Service under the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Solidarity (2009).

334. In the process of drafting the National Plan for the Family, as a part of the Decade of African Family, a diagnosis is being carried out on the status of Cape Verdean families. The results of this diagnosis will allow the definition of the objectives and design of measures to be implemented.

335. Among the activities of this Ministry legal and institutional conditions are being created for the operationalization of the National Council for the Family, which will be a nationwide Advisory Body, aiming to "ensure the participation of social partners in formulating strategies to protect the family and to promote conditions that ensure the stability of the family by monitoring and evaluating the activities of State departments and the community on this matter".

336. In 2007 the Government, through the then designated Ministry of Labor, Family and Solidarity edited a brochure called "Contributions for the dissemination of strategies to support the development of the Cape Verdean Family" which contributed to a better understanding and dissemination of strategies to support the development of families in Cape Verde.