

# BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION, 1995

## Strategic Objectives and Actions on Health, Violence against Women and Economy

*Adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, People's Republic of China, September 1995*

### C. WOMEN AND HEALTH

#### Strategic objective C.1

**Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services**

#### Actions to be taken

*106. By Governments, in collaboration with non-governmental organisations and employers' and workers' organisations and with the support of international institutions:*

- p. Formulate special policies, design programmes and enact the legislation necessary to alleviate and eliminate environmental and occupational health hazards associated with work in the home, in the workplace and elsewhere with attention to pregnant and lactating women;
- r. Promote public information on the benefits of breastfeeding; examine ways and means of implementing fully the WHO/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, and enable mothers to breastfeed their infants by providing legal, economic, practical and emotional support;
- w. Promote and ensure household and national food security, as appropriate, and implement programmes aimed at improving the nutritional status of all girls and women by implementing the commitments made in the Plan of Action on Nutrition of the International Conference on Nutrition, including a reduction world wide of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under the age of five by one half of 1990 levels by the year 2000, giving special attention to the gender gap in nutrition, and a reduction in iron deficiency anaemia in girls and women by one third of the 1990 levels by the year 2000.

#### Strategic objective C.3

**Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues**

#### Actions to be taken

*108. By Governments, international bodies including relevant United Nations organisations, bilateral and multilateral donors and non-governmental organisations:*

- i. Give all women and health workers all relevant information and education about sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS and pregnancy and the implications for the baby, including breastfeeding;

## Strategic objective C.4

### Promote research and disseminate information on women's health

#### Actions to be taken

109. *By Governments, the United Nations system, health professions, research institutions, non-governmental organisations, donors, pharmaceutical industries and the mass media, as appropriate:*

- a. Promote gender-sensitive and women-centred health research, treatment and technology and link traditional and indigenous knowledge with modern medicine, making information available to women to enable them to make informed and responsible decisions.

## F. WOMEN AND ECONOMY

### Strategic objective F.6

#### Promote harmonisation of work and family responsibilities for women and men

##### 181. *Actions to be taken:*

*By Governments*

- c) Ensure, through legislation, incentives and/or encouragement, opportunities for women and men to take job-protected parental leave and to have parental benefits. Promote the equal sharing of responsibilities for the family by men and women, including through appropriate legislation, incentives and/or encouragement, and also promote the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers.

This document was prepared as part of the enclosures for the Maternity Protection Campaign kit. The MPC Kit was produced in 2003 by the Maternity Protection Coalition (MPC), comprising the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), the International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), the LINKAGES Project and the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), with technical assistance from International Maternal & Child Health, Uppsala University, Sweden (IMCH) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The second edition, produced in 2008, includes two new MPC members: La Leche League International (LLL) and Academy for Educational Development (AED). LINKAGES, a former project of AED, is no longer an MPC member. The MPC supports women's rights to breastfeed and work, by advocating for implementation and monitoring of improved maternity protection entitlement.

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