Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs

National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022)
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Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs
Preface

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I am honoured to introduce Myanmar’s National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013 – 2022. It has been developed through collaboration with Ministries, agencies and organizations concerned. This National Strategic Plan is a Government commitment to promoting and protecting the human rights of women throughout our country. It marks a historic and essential step towards creating a more inclusive society - one in which both women and men play equal and meaningful roles and where women can reach their full potential. There are many positive aspects to being a woman in Myanmar, yet we must also acknowledge that we can do more.

Like all countries around the world, Myanmar has a responsibility to ensure that women’s rights are guaranteed. This includes women’s equal access to resources, opportunities and services, and their representation and participation in decision and policy-making at all levels and in all spheres of society. This Plan will make a significant contribution to ensuring that we all work to create an environment that nurtures the substantive equality between women and men.
This comprehensive ten year National Strategic Plan targets the key areas that affect women’s lives, and indicates practical ways to address the issues that Myanmar women are experiencing. This Plan is based on the 12 Priority Areas of the Beijing Platform for Action and the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to which Myanmar became a signatory in 1997. It is an ambitious yet achievable Plan that will require the political will and commitment of all Ministries, national non-government organisations and Myanmar’s development partners, to resource and implement the Plan. Its implementation will be as strong and successful as the partnerships that are built around it – and we all have a role to play if women in Myanmar are to be empowered and able to fully enjoy their rights.

It is my aspiration that this National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women will contribute to transforming our society so that all women, men, girls and boys live as equal and valued members.

“...the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields”

Preamble of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background History</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Priority Areas</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Livelihoods</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women, Education and Training</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Health</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence Against Women</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Emergencies</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and the Economy</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Decision-Making</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and Human Rights</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and the Media</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and the Environment</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Girl Child</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Committee</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

1. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, through the Department of Social Welfare, carries out social welfare services through preventative, protective and rehabilitative measures, with special attention to children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, and elderly persons. The Department of Social Welfare provides welfare services to vulnerable groups on the basis of social integration strategies.

Background History

2. After participation at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement established the Myanmar National Committee for Women Affairs (MNCWA) in 1996 to enhance the advancement of women, and was re-established in 2012 according to the policies of the new Government.

3. Myanmar is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (1997), and is committed to international policy initiatives to improve the situation of women, including the Millennium Declaration, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) has established the ASEAN Commission on Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW), of which Myanmar is a member. Myanmar, as an active member of both Committees, has drafted this National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women based on the Constitution 2008, CEDAW and the 12 Priority Areas of the Beijing Platform for Action.
4. This National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) will provide support to improve the situation of women and to fully enjoy their rights in accordance with the features of the Constitution of Republic of the Union of Myanmar (2008).

**Objectives**

5. All women in Myanmar are empowered and able to fully enjoy their rights with the support of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Enabling systems, structures and practices are created for the advancement of women, gender equality, and the realization of women’s rights.

**Priority Areas**

6. The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022) is based on the 12 Priority Areas of the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW.

**Women and Livelihoods**

7. The key objective is to develop enabling systems, structures and practices that improve women’s livelihoods and reduce poverty.

   a. Research and Surveys

      1. Women’s participation in livelihoods in both the formal and informal sectors.
2. Analysis of the current situation of women’s equal inclusion in land and agrarian reform.

3. Need for women’s livelihoods and women’s livelihood opportunities.

4. Women’s representation in technical positions and their participation in decision-making in Departments concerned with women’s livelihoods.

5. Women’s participation in livelihoods, including the participation of women-led households and women with disabilities.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.

b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers, at national, regional and local levels, responsible for the advancement of women’s livelihoods (including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals).

2. To increase the capacity of women in urban and rural areas to implement community-based initiatives by collaborating with women’s organizations.

3. To provide women with access to information about livelihoods.

c. Implementation

1. Practical initiatives supported by designated focal Ministries that focus on social protection mechanisms for women, new livelihoods programmes for women living in poverty, and equal treatment in land and agrarian reforms.
2. Increase in the number of women in decision-making positions of institutions, Departments and NGOs concerning livelihoods.

3. Establish information centres where women, including women with disabilities, can have access to finding work and information.

4. Free or paid access for women in urban or rural areas to vocational training and marketable livelihoods that are relevant to location.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organizations.

2. Review, development and application of laws, policies and procedures for the advancement of women’s livelihoods in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Increase in the participation of women in developing and implementing these policies.

Women, Education and Training

8. The key objective is to strengthen systems, structures and practices for ensuring access to quality formal and non-formal education for women and girls.
a. Research and Surveys

1. Access to formal and non-formal education for women in urban and rural areas.

2. Real access to formal and non-formal education for women in spheres such as science, technology and industry, areas widely considered as only suitable for men.

3. The participation of women in senior decision-making, technical and professional positions in formal and non-formal education sectors including universities, colleges and Government Departments.

4. The rates of women, girls, boys and men in formal and non-formal education with regard to literacy, school enrolment, completion, retention and those who abandon education.

5. The main obstacles of access to education for women.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.

b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers, at national, regional and local levels, responsible for formal and non-formal education (including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals).

2. To raise the awareness of women in urban and rural areas on the benefits of education for women, and to implement community-based initiatives through collaborating with women organizations.
3. To reduce and eliminate customs, superstitions and beliefs those are obstacles to the right of education for women.

c. Implementation

1. Practical initiatives supported by designated focal Ministries that focus on the inclusion of human rights, sex and gender equality education in both formal and non-formal curricula.

2. Provision of scholarships and the right to free education for women in both urban and rural areas.

3. Practical trainings, vocational trainings and skills building support for women.

4. Increase in the number of women in decision-making positions in Government Departments related to education and training.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organizations.

2. Implementation of policies on women’s right to education not only in border areas but also in areas of Myanmar with difficult access to transport.

3. To develop and implement non-formal education activities in areas where formal education is inaccessible, especially for women.
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(8)  NrdKYjyESifh aus;vufa'o&Sd trsKd;orD;rsm;twGuf ynmoifqk (odkUr[kwF)
4. To develop policies to promote the right to education for women with disabilities.

5. To develop policies that encourage the school environment to be safe and a place of dignity for women.

6. Review, development and application of laws, policies and procedures related to formal and non-formal education and training programs for women in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

7. Increase in the participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.

Women and Health

9. The key objective is to strengthen laws, systems, structures and practices to protect, promote and fulfil women’s and girls’ right to quality and affordable health care, including sexual and reproductive health.

a. Research and Surveys

1. Women’s access to and utilization of basic health, sexual and reproductive health care.

2. Women’s participation in decision-making for sexual and reproductive health, including family planning.

3. Women’s role in decision-making for HIV prevention, care and treatment, and women’s access to and utilization of HIV prevention, care and treatment services.
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4. Barriers to women’s access and use of basic health, sexual and reproductive health care.

5. Women’s participation in senior, technical and professional positions and decision-making within Government Departments related to health care.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.

d. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers, at national, regional and local levels, responsible for health care (including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals)

2. To raise awareness of not only women but also men and teenagers on basic health, sexual and reproductive health, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, treatment, care and support, and to implement community-based initiatives by collaborating with women’s organizations.

3. To reduce and eliminate customs, superstitions and beliefs that are obstacles to women’s access to, and use of basic health, sexual and reproductive health care.

c. Implementation

1. Practical initiatives supported by designated focal Ministries on the development and implementation of health programmes that focus on women’s health problems, sexual and reproductive health and rights.
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2. Data disaggregation by sex, ethnicity and location in health-related surveys, studies and health management information systems.

3. Increase in the number of women participating in decision-making in Government Departments related to health.

4. Rural area-oriented activities for basic health, sexual and reproductive health care, prevention, treatment, care and support of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

5. Provision of free contraception for women living in poverty.

6. Adolescent sexual and reproductive health care services to prevent underage pregnancies and the transmission of sexually transmitted infections.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organisations.

2. Implementation of policies on women’s access to health care services, not only in border areas but also in areas of Myanmar with difficult access to transport.

3. Review, development and application of the laws, policies and procedures related to women’s health care, in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.
4. Increase in the participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.

**Violence Against Women**

10. The key objective is to develop and strengthen laws, systems, structures and practices to eliminate all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls and to respond to the needs of women and girls affected by violence.

   a. Research and Surveys

      1. All forms of violence against women and girls in urban and rural areas.
      
      2. Causes and consequences of violence.
      
      3. Social services for women affected by violence, legal protective measures, and the challenges faced by women accessing these services.
      
      4. Satisfaction levels with the responses duty bearers give to women and girls who report violence.

      Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.

   b. Awareness Raising

      1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers, at national, regional and local levels, responsible for the prevention and appropriate responses to all forms of violence against women and girls (including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals)
2. To implement awareness raising activities on CEDAW which describe all forms of discrimination against women as a violation of human rights.

3. To provide special training to judicial officers to ensure the upholding of dignity and human rights of women and girls affected by violence when taking legal action.

4. To build the capacity of the Myanmar Police Force, judicial officers, health care staff and volunteers to actively respond to, and prevent all forms of violence against women and girls.

5. To raise awareness of the general public through the media to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

6. To implement community-based initiatives in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls.

7. To increase men’s participation in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls.
c. Implementation

1. Practical initiatives supported by designated focal Ministries that focus on: taking legal action against the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and human-trafficking; providing counselling to women and girls that ensures dignity and safety; effective treatment, care and protection for women and girls affected by violence.

2. Ensure that all women and girls affected by violence have access to services, in both urban and rural areas.

3. Establishment of community-based working committees comprised of both male and female members, at community, village and township levels, to take legal action and prevent violence against women.

4. Opening of one-stop services at national, regional and local levels to provide counselling, legal services, health care services and other social services for women who are affected by and vulnerable to violence.

5. To take legal action against perpetrators as well as to provide them with counselling and other awareness raising.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organizations.
2. Implementation of policies to take legal action against perpetrators and to provide counselling and other awareness raising.

3. Review, development and application of laws and policies related to women’s protection in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

4. Increase in the participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.

Women and Emergencies

11. The Key objective is to strengthen systems, structures and practices to ensure women’s right to protection in emergencies, and to ensure their participation in emergency preparedness, response, and disaster and conflict risk reduction.

a. Research and Surveys

1. Women knowing where to go to access general emergency information and services in emergencies.

2. Women, especially those displaced, who have access to appropriate and effective humanitarian assistance.

3. Women’s participation in preparedness, responses and disaster risk reduction.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.
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(3) t r s c b r D s m t m ; u m u G a p m i b & b u v & q b & & m m v u & D G E E h O y a ' r s m u C E D A W ? a b s f v k f e f p D h s u E E h a x m i E E G z i a & & u n f b f c s u f r s m E E h n D j y e v n b \& b y f j i q i \& & q G e f

(4) x i f r O g r s m u d c S w f a u m i f x n a z m a q m i & G & m w G f t r s c b r D s m t y i j g i j m e G a p a & a q m i & G & e f

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16
b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers, at national, regional and local levels, responsible for addressing the needs of women and girls in emergencies (including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals).

2. To raise awareness amongst relief and humanitarian actors to be able to understand and have the capacity to respond to violence against women and gender issues in emergencies.

3. To raise awareness and implement community-based initiatives for preparedness, response and disaster risk reduction.

c. Implementation

1. Practical initiatives supported by designated focal Ministries that focus on training, technical support, improved recording and handling of cases of violence against women by police, military, local authorities, community-based organizations and other agencies as well as a Plan of Action addressing Security Council Resolutions about conflict-related sexual violence.

2. Women’s equal access to protection, resources, benefits and services in natural disasters and conflict situations.

3. Equitable representation of female and male members in preparedness/relief/response/resettlement and civil society-based working committees.
d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organizations.

2. Development and application of laws and policies related to disaster management and risk reduction to fulfil and respond to the needs of women and to ensure their equal rights.

3. Increase in the participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.

Women and the Economy

12. The key objective is to strengthen systems, structures and practices to ensure fairness and equal rights for women in relation to employment, credit, resources, assets and economic benefits.

a. Research and Surveys

1. Women’s participation in the public and private economic sectors.

2. The challenges women face accessing economic opportunities, their economic needs, and utilization of, and access to resources.

3. Women’s participation in region-specific, marketable income-generating activities.
4. The economic opportunities and needs of women-led households.

5. The economic opportunities and needs of women with disabilities and their participation in the economy.

6. Assessment of the situation of female migrant workers.

7. Disparities in wages between women and men.

8. The sexual harassment of women at the workplace and workplace responses, including reporting.

9. Women’s participation and decision-making in technical and professional positions of Government Departments related to economy.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.

b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers, at national, regional and local levels, responsible for the economy and development projects (including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals).

2. To raise awareness and to implement community-based initiatives related to the economic capacity building of women in urban and rural areas.

3. To implement awareness raising of employers and employees to understand labour laws, equitable workplace practices including gender equality, non discrimination and community-based initiatives.
4. To provide women with access to information about the economic sector.

5. To reduce and eliminate customs, superstitions and beliefs that are obstacles to women’s access and use of information about the economic sector, and to implement community-based initiatives.

c. Implementation

1. Practical initiatives supported by designated focal Ministries that focus on livelihood initiatives that: provide equal access to employment and resources; promote balance between household work and income generation; promote quota systems for women in economic management; implement workplace policies about equal pay for equal work and non-harassment.

2. Increase in the number of women participating in the decision-making of agencies and Government Departments related to the economy and development projects.

3. Identification and implementation of projects that give specific priority to economic opportunities for women and their rights.

4. Service centres where women, including women with disabilities, can access employment opportunities and get information.

5. Development of women’s access to employment, credit, resources, assets and economic benefits.
6. Initiatives giving priority to women’s rights and security in the workplace.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organisations.

2. Review, development and application of laws, policies and procedures related to the economy, development projects and the workplaces of women, that are in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Implementation of specific policies related to economic opportunities for women and their rights, including women with disabilities, women migrant workers and women-led households.

4. Increase in the participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.

Women and Decision-Making

13. The key objective is to improve systems, structures and practices to ensure women’s equal participation in decision-making and leadership at all levels of society.

a. Research and Surveys

1. Women’s participation in decision-making in Government including Parliaments, Parliamentary Committees, Ministries, Departments and political parties - at all levels.
2. Women’s participation in senior, technical and professional positions and in the decision-making processes of Government Departments, and the challenges they face.

3. The visibility and frequency of reporting in the media of women decision-makers in Government and the private sector.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.

b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities to promote policy change related to women’s representation and participation in decision-making and in national level positions in Parliaments, Parliamentary Committees, Ministries, and Departments and political parties at all levels.

2. To raise awareness and gain the acceptance of the general public on the benefits of women’s participation in leadership and decision-making.

3. Raise awareness to address harmful customary laws and gender discriminatory practices that are identified as barriers to women’s participation in leadership and decision-making.

4. Raise awareness of the media about increasing the visibility and frequency of women decision-makers in Government and the private sector in the media.
c. Implementation

1. Practical initiatives focusing on the provision of information for women about public affairs.

2. Mentoring programmes for female parliamentarians to improve leadership and decision-making skills.

3. Activities to increase women’s engagement with electoral processes.

4. Application of quota systems to ensure women’s participation in decision-making in legislative, judicial and executive bodies.

5. Implementation of community-based initiatives, including youth focused activities, to address harmful customs, laws and gender discriminatory practices that can be barriers to women’s participation in leadership and decision-making.

6. Capacity building for future women leaders on leadership and negotiation skills.

7. Women’s participation in leadership and decision-making and its benefits to be visible in the media and with increased frequency of reporting.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organizations.
2. Review, development and application of the rules, structures, systems and policies at all levels of Government related to women’s participation in leadership and decision-making.

3. Review, development and application of laws, policies and procedures related to formal and non-formal education and skills training for women in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

4. Increase in the participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.

**Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women**

14. The key objective is to establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women and to ensure the participation of women as equal partners in national development strategies and decision-making processes.

a. Research and Surveys

1. Assessment of opinion, policy and procedures on gender issues in designated focal Ministries and Departments responsible for implementing the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women.

2. Review of existing laws and the identification of those that pose barriers to women’s advancement.

3. Establishment of advancement mechanisms such as a Ministry of Women Affairs, and a Parliamentary Committee on Women related to progress toward the 12 Priority Areas in this Plan.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.
b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers, at national, regional and local levels responsible for Strategic Plan (including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals)

2. Implementation of public awareness activities about the importance of the advancement of the women.

c. Implementation

1. Establishment of Gender Focal Points in designated Ministries with clear terms of reference that include authority and responsibilities.

2. Timely reporting to the CEDAW Committee, taking action to address CEDAW Committee observations, and implementing CEDAW recommendations.

3. Strengthen the existing mechanisms for the advancement of women at national, regional and local levels.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organizations.

2. Review, development and application of rules and regulations, structure, system and policies to improve women’s participation in national development strategies and processes.
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3. Increase in the participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.

Women and Human Rights

15. The Key objective is to ensure the protection, promotion and fulfilment of women’s and girls’ economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.

a. Research and Surveys

1. Understanding of women’s rights within Government including Parliaments, Parliamentary Committees, Ministries, Departments and political parties - at all levels.

2. Public awareness, including ethnic and minority groups, on the rights of women.

3. Agencies working on the fulfilment of the rights of women, and their effectiveness.


5. Representation of women in Human Rights Bodies/Committees.

6. Human Rights Bodies/Committees systematically acknowledge and address rights-related needs and aspirations of women.

7. Reporting on the rights of women in the media and the frequency of reporting.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.
b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers to understand the rights of women and girls and the State’s obligation to fulfil these rights in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals.

2. To observe and disseminate existing laws that have a direct positive impact on the rights of women.

3. To raise awareness of the general public on the rights of women.

4. To raise awareness of the media on the rights of women.

c. Implementation

1. National statistics, surveys and information management systems related to the analysis of data on the status of human rights, including the areas of marriage and inheritance.

2. Effectively implement CEDAW and related international conventions.

3. Implement efficient mechanisms to ensure the rights of women are fulfilled at national, regional, state, district, township and community/village levels.
4. Implement community-based initiatives to raise public awareness on the rights of women.

5. Improve coverage on the rights of women in the media.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organizations.

2. Revision, development and application of existing civil, religious and customary laws so as to protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of women and girls.

3. Development and implementation of policies to protect and promote the human rights of women in accordance with the recommendations of key stakeholders and international laws and instruments.

**Women and the Media**

16. The key objective is to develop and strengthen systems, structures and practices for the media to promote the advancement of women, and to raise public awareness about women’s rights and their contribution to society.
a. Research and Surveys

1. Portrayal of empowered women in the media in broadcasting and publishing.

2. Media professionals’ acknowledgement and acceptance of gender stereotyping and discrimination against women.

3. The media’s portrayal of gender stereotyping and discrimination against women.

4. The media’s showcasing of programmes that benefit women.

5. Women’s participation and decision-making in senior, technical and professional positions of media-related agencies and Departments.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.

b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for designated focal Ministries, duty bearers and media professionals that include CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Raise awareness of media professionals of the need to reduce gender stereotyping and discrimination against women in their workplaces.

3. Adopt a balanced approach to portraying women as empowered members of society.
c. Implementation

1. Publish and disseminate international conventions including CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals in user-friendly formats for public awareness.

2. Broadcast and publish media programmes that have a direct impact on the rights of women.

3. Pro-actively reduce gender stereotyping and discrimination against women in the media.

4. Include the constructive engagement and support of men in the advancement of women in the media.

5. Provide easy access to books, literature and videos related to the advancement of women in community-based libraries.

6. Increase the participation and decision-making of women in senior, technical and professional positions in agencies and Departments related to the media.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non-Government organizations.

2. Implementation of policies to promote the rights and the advancement of women in broadcasting and in publishing.
3. Revision, development and application of media laws and policies in accordance with CEDAW Committees recommendations.

4. Increase in the participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.

**Women and the Environment**

17. The key objective is to strengthen systems, structures and practices to ensure women’s meaningful participation in the management and safeguarding of natural resources, the environment and in adapting to climate change.

a. Research and Surveys

1. Integration of the importance of gender issues in designated focal Ministries on the management of natural resources, environmental conservation, and adaptation and responding to climate change.

2. Women’s participation in Departments, agencies, and committees related to the management of natural resources, environmental conservation, and adaptation and responding to climate change.

3. Impact of climate and environmental changes on women.

4. Development of the living standards of women in urban and rural areas including adequate living conditions, sanitation, electricity and water supply according to Article 14.2g of CEDAW.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.
b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers at national, regional and local levels in order to increase understanding about the different impacts on women and men.

2. To provide training and raise awareness on community-based natural resource management, environmental conservation, and adaptation and response to climate change, where equal numbers of women and men are included.

c. Implementation

1. Practical initiatives supported by designated focal Ministries that focus on capacity building, training, providing access to suitable technology and information.

2. Programmes to ensure that women become competent in technologies related to natural resource management, environmental conservation, and adaption and response to climate change.

3. Equal participation of women and men in designated focal Ministries and organizations that are responsible for natural resources management, environmental conservation, adaptation to and response to climate change.
d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non Government organisations.

2. Review, development and application of laws and policies related to environmental management and conservation that respond to the needs of women and ensure their equal rights.

3. Increase in the participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.

The Girl Child

18. The Key objective is to strengthen systems, structures and practices to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of the Girl Child.

a. Research and Surveys

1. Understanding about girls’ rights in Government, including the Parliaments, Parliamentary Committees, Ministries, Departments and political parties - at all levels.

2. Practical initiatives supported by designated focal Ministries to provide access to, and to protect girls’ rights.

3. Reports on girls’ rights violations and processing of these cases by Committees on the Rights of the Child at national, state, regional, district and township levels.
4. The social needs of girls including the need for sexual and reproductive health and education.

5. Records related to adolescent health, child trafficking and child prostitution.

Remark: When carrying out research and surveys, it is necessary to collect data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and location.

b. Awareness Raising

1. Implement awareness raising activities for male and female staff in designated focal Ministries and with duty bearers so as to understand the rights of the Girl Child and the responsibilities of the State to fulfil their rights in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

2. Implement awareness raising activities for the general public on girls’ rights.

3. Implement community-based awareness raising activities to reduce and eliminate customs, superstitions and beliefs that are obstacles to girls’ advancement, that promote child marriage, and that discourage girls from accessing education.

4. Implement awareness raising activities for media professionals so as to understand girls’ rights.
The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - CRC

1. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is an international legal instrument that sets out, for the first time, the general principles and guarantees for the realization of human rights for children. The CRC was adopted on 20 November 1989 by the United Nations General Assembly and entered into force on 2 September 1990.

2. The Convention recognizes the inherent rights of the child as the highest priority in any consideration of actions concerning children. It aims to protect children from harm, neglect, and exploitation, and to ensure their physical, mental, social, and spiritual development.

3. The CRC establishes a system for the protection of children's rights, including the right to a standard of living adequate for the child's well-being, the right to freedom of expression, and the right to participate in decisions that affect them.

4. The Convention also provides for the establishment of national machinery for the implementation of its provisions, including the establishment of competent national institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, identification, and remediation of violations of the rights of children.
c. Implementation

1. Practical initiatives supported by designated focal Ministries to promote girls’ right to education, basic health, sexual and reproductive health including the minimum age of marriage, anti-child prostitution and anti-trafficking of girls; and to respect laws that protect girls’ rights.

2. Implement community-based actions to fulfil girls’ rights through participatory approaches.

3. Effectively implement CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international conventions.

4. Promote the rights of the Girl Child in the media with increased frequency.

d. Budget and Policy Making

1. Allocation of budget, human and material resources to the above-mentioned activities by all stakeholders including Government and non-Government organizations.

2. Review, development and application of laws and policies related to the rights of the Girl Child and in accordance with CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Goals.

3. Increase in participation of women in the development and implementation of these policies.
**Timeframe**

19. The 10 year National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women covers the period 2013-2022 and an Operational Plan, and action plans will be developed and implemented according to the calendar year.

**Resources**

20. The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women will be implemented by Government agencies, National and International non-Governmental organizations, UN agencies, private agencies, Civil Society Organizations and individual donors through the contribution of financial, technical and material assistance.

**Funds (Budget)**

21. Respective Ministries will propose required budgets to the Union Government.

**Management Committee**

22. A 10 year National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women Management Committee will be established under the guidance of the Myanmar National Committee on Women’s Affairs (MNCWA). The NSPAW Management Committee will develop Terms of Reference related to its role and NSPAW.

23. For each of the Priority Areas, sub-committees will be established comprising focal Ministries and other stakeholders working in different sectors. Terms of Reference for each sub-committee related to NSPAW will be established. In the Ministries involved in the implementation of NSPAW, at least one focal person will be designated to coordinate and monitor work on all the priority areas that specific Ministry is engaged in.
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Implementation

24. Cooperation and coordination will take place as follows:

a. The Management Committee for NSPAW will develop a 5 year Operational Plan to coordinate and prioritise the implementation of strategic policies, plans and legislative reforms developed by the Working Group/Task forces for each of the 12 Priority Areas. The Operational Plan will be reviewed and revised on a regular basis. e.g. every 6 months. The Operational Plan will be linked to respective Government National Plans such as the National Health Plan, the National Strategic Plan for Reproductive Health and the National Action Plan for Children etc.

b. The Operational Plan will identify the structures and mechanisms for the management and implementation of the Plan at all levels: from National to State/Region, to township and lower administrative levels.

c. The Operational Plan will define the role of the Parliament and Judiciary in implementation, particularly since the results/outcomes of the Plan involve policy making, legislative reforms and law enforcement.

d. A Resource Allocation Plan will be developed for the entire duration of the Operational Plan, the amount earmarked by the Government should be known, and the amount sought from donors and other stakeholders identified.
e. The Management Committee for NSPAW, under the guidance of the Myanmar National Committee on Women’s Affairs (MNCWA), will take responsibility for the timely implementation, quality assurance, monitoring and annual reporting on the NSPAW to the Cabinet of the President’s Office.

f. Operationalising the NSPAW will involve the development of partnerships and coordinating mechanisms that are inclusive of a broad range of stakeholders including Government agencies, National and International non-Governmental organizations, UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations, working groups and private agencies. The equitable representation of both women and men will be a key feature of these partnerships.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

25. The Management Committee for NSPAW will review progress towards the objectives of NSPAW and the extent to which efforts are leading towards meeting anticipated outcomes according to the core indicators. The monitoring framework, including data collection mechanisms, will be reviewed annually and will continue to be developed and refined. Reporting guidelines and timelines will be developed by the Management Committee for NSPAW.

Conclusion

26. Myanmar became a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women in July 1997. The initial report was submitted in June 1999 and the combined second and third report was submitted in July 2007. Being a member country of the Beijing Declaration, the development and advancement of Myanmar women and girls is continually being improved.
27. The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) 2013-2022 is based on international conventions, laws, standards and strategies such as CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. The Plan will be implemented successfully in coordination and cooperation with the Government, National and International non-Governmental organizations, UN agencies, Civil Society Organizations and private agencies.