

# **NATIONAL GENDER POLICY**



A Simplified version

By Gender And Development Action (GADA)

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**Deborah Effiong**

## **About GADA**



Gender and Development Action (GADA) is a non-profit, non governmental organization committed to gender equality and pursuit of sustainable development and social justice in Nigeria.

Our work promotes greater understanding and proactive responses to gender and development issues through research, information documentation and dissemination, training, consultation, dialogue, advocacy and mobilization.

GADA works to realize her vision of an equitable society in which the values and aspirations of men and women can be fully realized through the following goals;

- ❖ Promoting gender equity and equality in Nigeria.
- ❖ Influencing policy making and fostering partnerships that work for social justice.
- ❖ Promoting equitable and sustainable development in Nigeria through gender based and people centered interventions.

### **Our Program Focus Areas**

- ❖ Conflict Resolution/Peace Building
- ❖ Education
- ❖ Environmental Justice
- ❖ Governance / Democracy
- ❖ Human Rights
- ❖ Social and Community Development

### **Ongoing Projects and Programmes**

- ❖ Publications
- ❖ Women in Politics
- ❖ Women's Human Rights Trainings
- ❖ Policy Analysis
- ❖ Legislative Advocacy (Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunities Bill)
- ❖ Campaigns Against Violence Against Women
- ❖ Networking and Coalition Building
- ❖ Research, Documentation and Information Dissemination

## **INTRODUCTION TO GADA/ SDN's GROUNDWORK PROJECT**

The Groundwork Project is a human rights platform for the Niger Delta.

Women remain marginalized, repressed and under represented in many aspects of Nigerian Society, however women in the Niger Delta do have a strong and important role to play and are particularly visible in promoting progressive domestic agendas and community activities. This places them in a unique position to become a force for non violence across the region. One of the factors preventing more women from capitalizing on their potential is their lack of education in and awareness of universally accepted principles of human rights and their applications.

Through empowering women and increasing understanding of social and political rights this programme is expected to improve the capacity of women to give voice and vision to their aspirations in a society where men and violence currently hold centre stage.

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# PART 1

# **NATIONAL GENDER POLICY**



## **PART 1**

### **What is the National Gender Policy?**

It is a document approved by the Federal government of Nigeria containing its plans towards the equal fair treatment of men and women, its reasons for the plan and what it hopes to achieve.

#### **Why do we need a Gender Policy?**

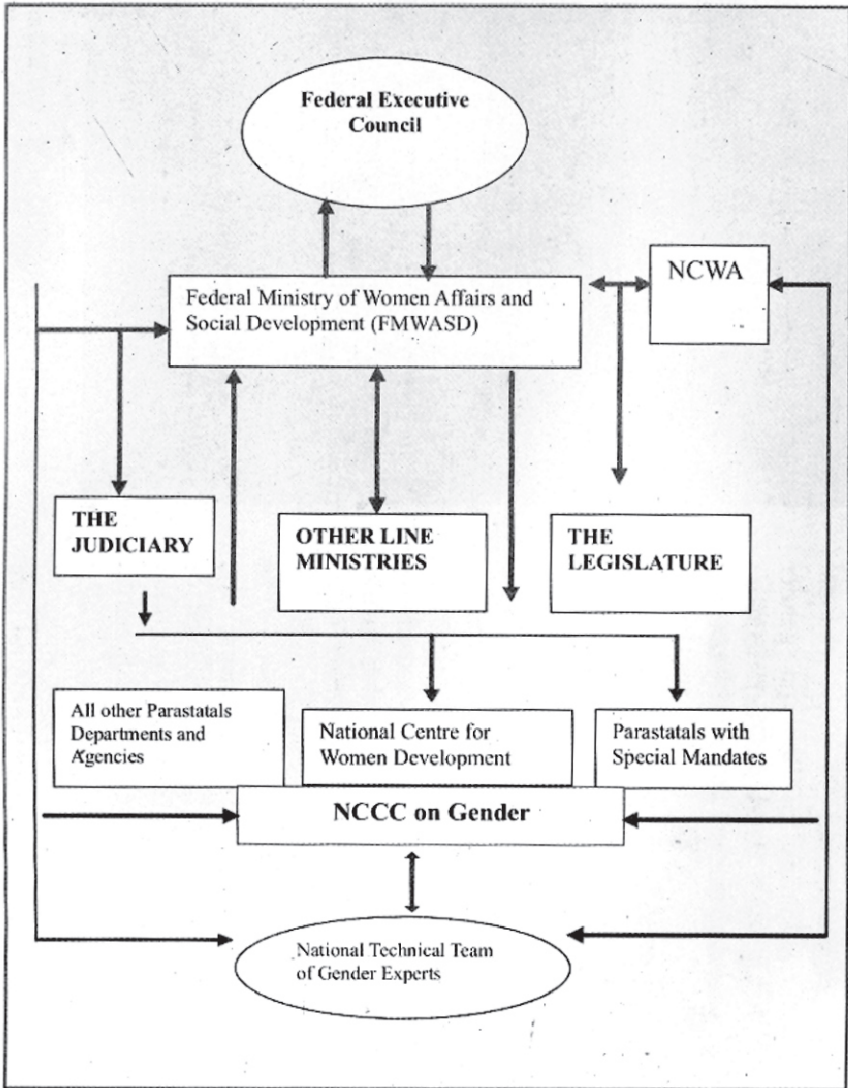
Nigeria needs it if we are to succeed in developing our country and for the development to last from generation to generation. In the history of Nigeria, this fact of treating women equally with men and using it to bring about development has been ignored and that is why Nigeria is not developed.

In present times, this is necessary for planning development. The Millennium development Goal No 3 which is the achievement of gender equality and women empowerment is the one needed to achieve all other MDGs.

S.2 of the Nigerian Constitution contains a rule that women are to be treated in the same fair manner as men. Yet Nigeria falls short of the rule. Men are treated more fairly than men in all areas of life.

S. 43 of the 1979 Constitution allows women and men to own and acquire property, yet in many of our communities when land is shared women are not given, and when fathers die, daughters are barred from inheriting land/property.

Men dominate every area of life and women's opinion and how the decisions taken by mostly men affect women are not taken care of. That is why the death rate of women during pregnancy and child birth is very high. HIV/AIDS affect women most because of several factors.



# PART 2

## PART 2

### POLICY FRAMEWORK, GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

#### **Guiding Principles:**

- i. Country's commitment to gender mainstreaming as a development approach to economic, value reorientation and social transformation, economic agenda, etc
- ii. Gender Policy supersedes and is central to achievement of national development
- iii. A co-operative multi-sectoral approach is required for effective implementation and result focus.
- iv. The Policy will be based on promotion and protection of human rights, social justice and equity which in turn depend on cultural reorientation, elimination of all stereotypes and discrimination as well as support for judicial and legislative reforms

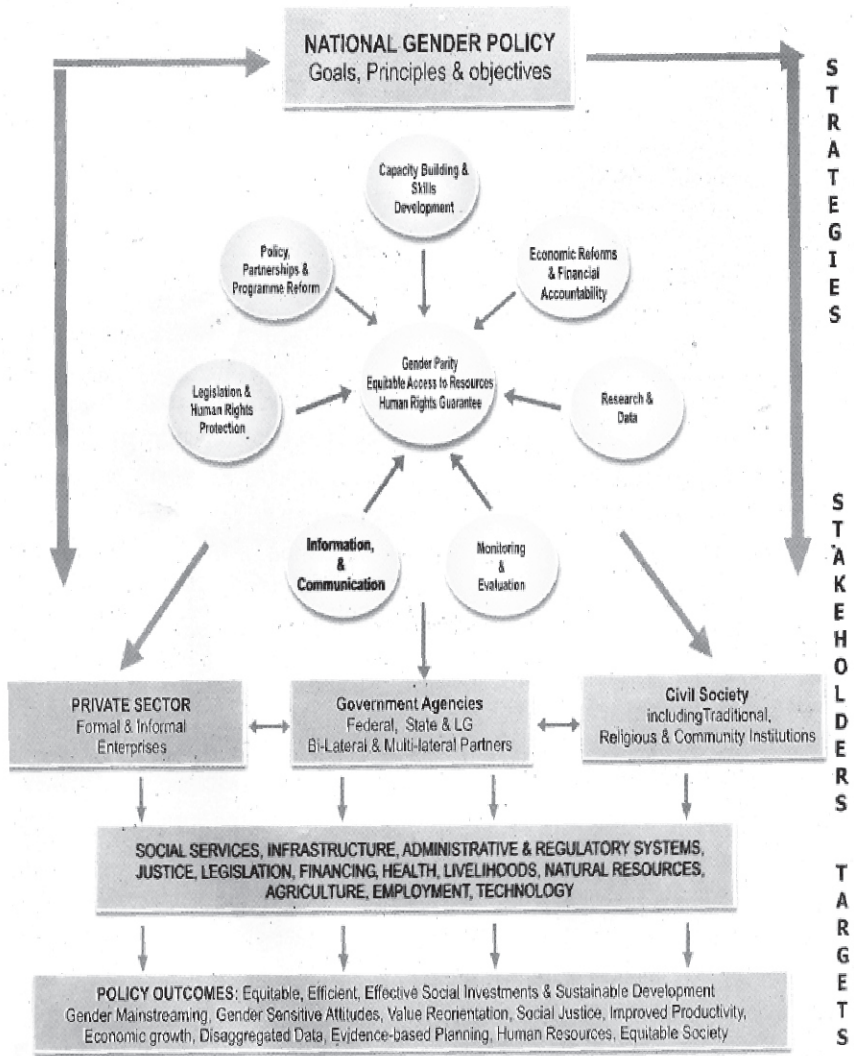
#### **Policy Goal:**

The government wants to build a just society where no person is discriminated against, where all the abilities of all social groups are controlled and used to achieve enjoyment of basic human rights, protect the health, social, economic and political well being of all citizens for fair economic rapid growth.

The policy will bring about planning based on data and a system of governance where human, social and technological resources are used well for development without waste of time and money that generation after generation shall benefit from.

#### **Policy Objectives:**

1. Establish a set of rules for both government agencies(federal/state/local) and private sector (formal & informal business) and civil society to guide them in responding



*System-Wide Approach to Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Empowerment*

to gender issues in the provision of :

- ③ Social services
- ③ Justice
- ③ Legislation
- ③ Administrative and regulatory system
- ③ Agriculture
- ③ Livelihoods
- ③ Health
- ③ Employment
- ③ Technology
- ③ Infrastructure, and
- ③ Financing.

2. Develop gender mainstreaming tools, approaches, tools and instruments that fit into the national development policy.
3. Adopt gender mainstreaming as a core value and practice in the general polity of Nigeria.
4. Incorporate CEDAW, Optional Protocol on African Charter on Human & peoples' Rights on the Right of Women in Africa, and other global & regional instruments on equality of rights in the legislative process, laws, judicial and administrative systems of the country.
5. Achieve minimum level of representation for women to promote equal opportunity in all areas of life for women as well as for men.
6. Undertake women and men specific projects that will build the capacity of men and women to make use of economic and political opportunities for gender equality and empowerment.
7. Educate all relevant agencies, bodies and individuals that gender equality is central to national development.

### **STRATEGIES:**

These are based on 'dual agenda' principle.

#### **What is dual agenda principle?**

1. Gender equity and equality is beneficial to the individuals (men and women)

2. It is also essential for producing effective and efficient system both at national and organisation levels.

Strategies	Expected Outcomes
Policy, partnerships and programme reform	Mainstreaming genders across all sectors in the polity
Information, Communication, Value Reorientation,	Male involvement, attitude and practice, increased gender knowledge
Capacity building/ skill development	Technical expertise for sustained gender responsive development
Legislation & human Rights protection	Gender justice & guarantee of human rights
Economic reforms & accountability	Enhanced productivity & sustained development.
Research data & evidence based planning	Reliable sex segregated data and indicators
Monitoring & Evaluation	Effective gender equality tracking and benchmarking for progress

## **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

- ⊕ Curvilinear
- ⊕ National Gender Management system is set up
- ⊕ It has 4 pillars to provide enabling environment for intended restructuring of gender role in Nigeria, building structures for actualising targets, providing required skills for coordinating strategies.

## **CHALLENGES:**

- ⊕ Moving from policy prescription to actualisation of framework
- ⊕ Political will
- ⊕ Confronting patriarchy
- ⊕ Co-ordination, Networking & Monitoring
- ⊕ Gender as a core value for transforming the NIGERIAN SOCIETY.

# The National Gender Management Systems

