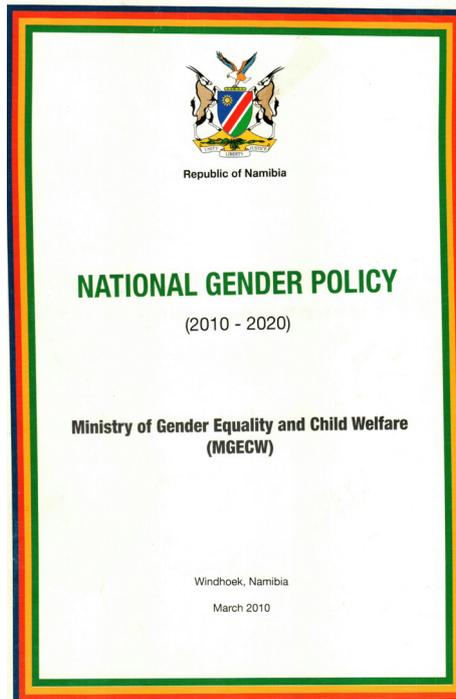


Namibian National Gender Policy (2010 - 2020)

The first National Gender Policy was developed and adopted in 1997 and was “aimed at closing the gaps which were created by past socio-economic, political and cultural inequalities which existed in the Namibian society.”⁹ The revised Policy also addresses shortcomings inherent in previous policies, including “inadequate knowledge of gender mainstreaming, a lack of skills regarding gender analysis and poor coordination between the stakeholders and the MGEWCW, as the lead Agency.”¹⁰

With the aim of ensuring “integration and mainstreaming of gender perspectives in the broad development framework”, in line with NDP3 and Vision 2030, the National Gender Policy aims to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of both women and men in the socio-economic, cultural and political development of Namibia¹¹ The Policy addresses gender issues in terms of Poverty and Rural Development; Education and Training; Health, Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS; Gender-Based Violence; Trade and Economic Empowerment; Governance and Decision-Making; Media, Research, Information and Communication; the Environment, The Girl-Child; Legal Affairs and Human Rights; Peace-Building, Conflict Resolution, and Natural Disasters Management; and Gender Equality in the Family.

With respect to women’s representation in governance and political decision-making, the Policy states that its major objective is to, “Increase women’s participation at all levels of decision-making, and provide support for women in governance and



decision-making positions”.¹¹ In this respect, the Policy supports the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development’s recommendation for 50 percent female representation in all SADC member States by 2015. This policy also outlines twelve strategies for bringing about equal gender representation.

The Policy also provides a number of recommendations with regards to creating an institutional framework to facilitate the realisation of the various policy objectives. These include the identification of the MGEWCW as the lead agency responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Gender Policy; the establishment of a National Permanent Gender Task Force at regional and national level to oversee implementation, and to serve as an advisory and consultative body; the creation of a Parliamentary Gender Caucus to enhance communication between the Parliament and other stakeholders; the use of gender focal points for decision-making and supervisory support in implementing the National Gender Policy in all government departments; and collaboration with development partners.

⁹ Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. 2010. National Gender Plan (2010-2020). Republic of Namibia.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

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Source: Democracy Report. May 2013.