

WOMEN'S COMMISSION

Framework of Collaboration

INTRODUCTION

This paper invites Members' endorsement on the simplified Framework of Collaboration and comments on the way forward.

BACKGROUND

2. The Women's Commission organised three exchange sessions in February, June and October 2003 with participation from various sectors to discuss how the Women's Commission could collaborate with interested parties in the community. Following from these exchanges, the Commission has developed a Framework of Collaboration. The objective is to document a formal and systematic approach to how interested parties can most effectively collaborate with the Commission and with each other. The Framework of Collaboration was considered at the WoC meeting on 11 February 2003. Members agreed that for the purpose of communicating with interested parties, a simpler and more user-friendly version should be prepared. The Working Group on Collaboration has accordingly prepared a simplified Framework.

SIMPLIFIED FRAMEWORK OF COLLABORATION

3. The simplified Framework of Collaboration outlines the possible means of collaboration as well as the roles of the Commission and other interested parties in four key areas, namely, the setting up of a matrix network, exchange of information and ideas with WoC acting as an information hub, in planning of activities as well as in giving recognition to contributions by individuals or community groups.

4. Collaboration is a multi-party interactive process, with each participating party having interest, commitment and readiness to contribute and play a part to define and achieve mutually-accepted goals based on

mutually-agreed values. The simplified Framework can serve as a blueprint for collaborating parties wishing to work together for promotion of interests and well-being of women. Interested parties can complement each other by leveraging their networks and expertise, creating synergy in the work we do together, thus bringing benefits to women and the community at large. The Women's Commission, as a central mechanism, will facilitate and encourage cross-sector collaboration through various means. The Framework of Collaboration will be continually improved as more experience is gained through working together.

WAY FORWARD

5. Subject to endorsement from Members, we will distribute the simplified Framework of Collaboration to all women's groups, NGOs and interested parties. To facilitate collaboration among interested parties, the Women's Commission has recently revamped its website to create a platform for women's groups and service organisations to upload and share information on women-related services and programmes. Efforts will be made to encourage more interested parties to register with us so as to share information through the website and play an active part in the collaborative process.

6. The Working Group of Collaboration will work with the Working Group on Gender Awareness to pilot the Framework in its current / future efforts and introduce real in-hand examples. The Working Group on Collaboration will also continue to work with other working groups on matters that require collaboration with community organisations.

ADVICE SOUGHT

7. Members are invited to endorse the simplified Framework of Collaboration and to give comments on the way forward as outlined in paragraphs 5 and 6 above.

Women's Commission Secretariat
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