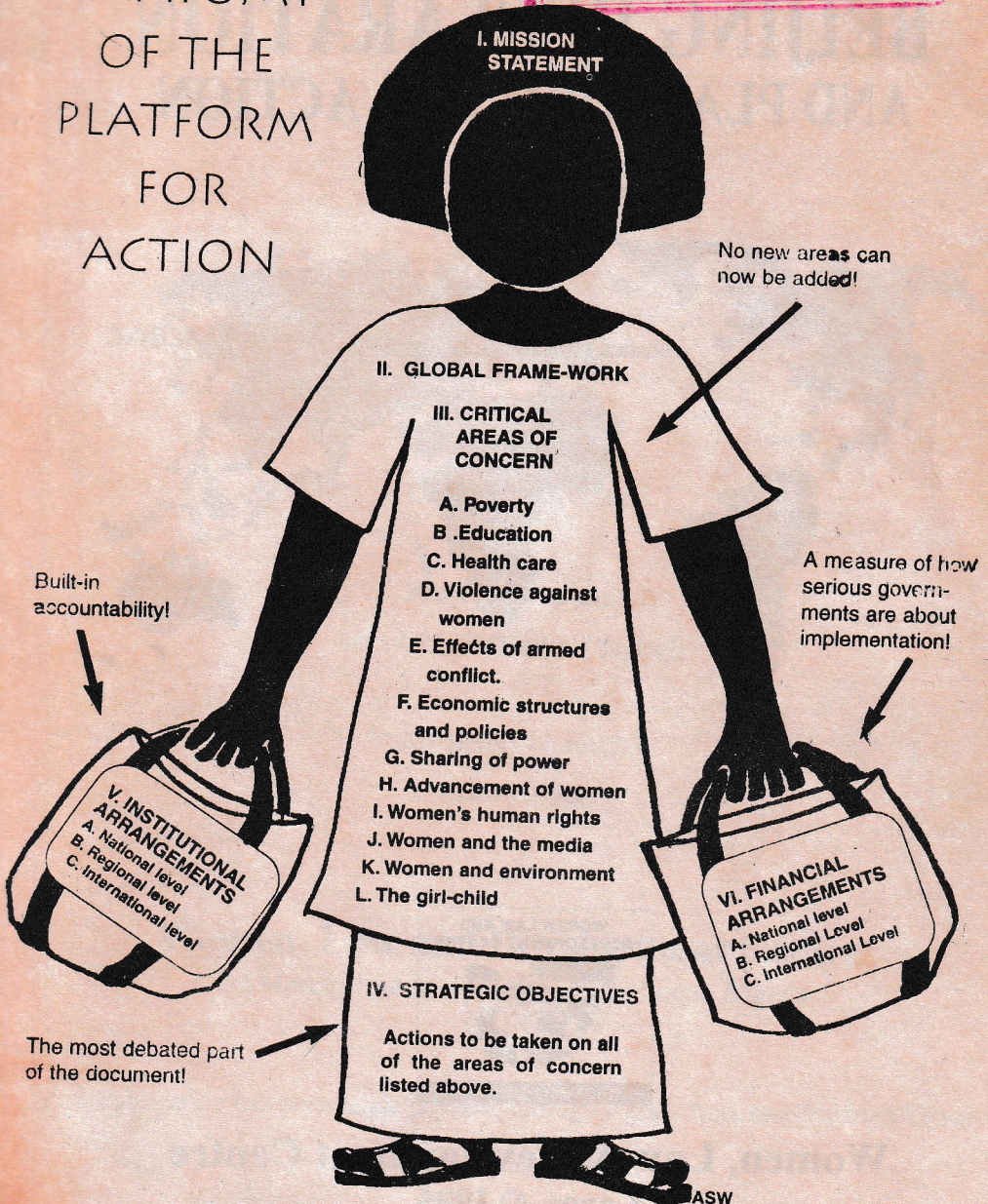


BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION



Women, Law & Development Centre
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ANATOMY OF THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION



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PREFACE

In 1985, the United Nations convened the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference brought out the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, a blueprint for action, by governments, non-governmental organisations and individuals, for the advance of women towards the year 2000.

The failure to achieve women's equal participation with men in virtually every aspect of life prompted the need for a Fourth World Conference on Women, in order to search for new and better ways to implement those parts of the Forward Looking Strategies which have either not been implemented or are being implemented very slowly.

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women identified twelve critical area of concern. These were Poverty, Education, Economic Structures and Policies, Effects of Armed conflicts, Health Care, Violence Against Women, Sharing of Power, Human Rights, Women and Environment, Political Advancement of Women and the Survival of the Girl-Child.

The Declaration and the Platform for Action reaffirm that the "advancement of women and the achievement of equality are a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice."

The Platform has, therefore, addressed all the impediments encountered by women since the 1985 Nairobi Conference and proposed further strategies to attack these impediments. It has called for focus on the twelve critical area of concern enumerated above.

The Women, Law and Development Centre, realising the difficulty of ploughing through the 132 pages of the declaration and the Platform for Action, especially for the ordinary women and men, decided to synthesise the document in order to make it readable by a large section of our population. For those who are illiterate in English language, the graphics illustrate the twelve (12) critical areas of concern.

We believe that, in doing this, the massive public awareness that was created on the road to Beijing will be sustained and demands for post Beijing activities for the implementation of the commitments in the Platform for Action will not only be heightened but also focussed on the twelve critical areas of concern. This publication is our little contribution to achieving maximum implementation of the Platform for Action.

**Professor Jadesola Akande,
Executive Director.**