

**TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR MEMBERS OF THE NIGER PARLIAMENTARIANS
NETWORK ON GENDER**
March 10-11 2006, Niamey

Introduction

On March 10th and 11th, a workshop was delivered to the members of the Niger Parliamentarians Network on Gender at the National Assembly. The training was part of the implementation of the tripartite agreement between the National Assembly, the Parliamentary Centre and SNV.

The training is also in line with the memorandum of partnership signed between SNV-Niger and the National Assembly.

The facilitation was provided by Ai Abarchi, with the help of Harissou Elh Souleymane, Adamou Hamidou and Boubacar Sabo, and the proceedings were moderated by Briji Rafini. On the technical side, the three co-facilitators developed, along with Tiemogo Boubacar, briefing documents on the various missions of the National Assembly, the working tools of Niger parliamentarians as well as community monitoring of both the representation mission and oversight of government actions.

The objectives of the workshop were as follows:

- ☞ Providing an opportunity for the members of the Parliamentarians Network on Gender to develop their own understanding of key gender concepts.
- ☞ Helping the members of the Parliamentarians Network on Gender discover the functional relationships between the concepts and their implications for the various missions of the National Assembly.
- ☞ Assisting the members in defining the roles and responsibilities of the Network with a view to mainstreaming gender into the missions of the National Assembly.
- ☞ Building the capacity of the members of the Parliamentarians Network on Gender to carry out gender-based development and analysis of papers.

The following are the expected results of the training:

- ☞ Improved understanding of the concepts of sex, gender and poverty by the Network members.
- ☞ Enhanced capacity of Network members in terms of emphasizing the links between these concepts and the missions of the National Assembly.
- ☞ Defined Network roles and responsibilities in the mainstreaming of gender into the missions of the National Assembly.
- ☞ Providing member parliamentarians with a checklist of tools to help them carry out gender-based analysis in fulfilling their parliamentary missions and those of the Network.

The training was focussed on:

- Assessing the participants' degree of familiarity with the workshop's central themes.
- Understanding and harmonizing some key concepts around gender and poverty.

- Identifying the cause/effect links between gender and poverty on the basis of definitions; profiles, attributes, roots/causes of poverty as well as hypotheses on gender.
- Defining the roles and responsibilities of the Network with a view to mainstreaming gender into actions to be taken by the Network and Parliament both at the national and international levels.
- Presenting and reviewing six tools according to their relevance to the missions of the National Assembly.
- Analyzing a paper with these tools.
- Daily and final evaluations at start-up.

I. Workshop Details

The workshop opened with a statement by the 4th Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, after the welcoming address and a few words of thanks by the vice-chair of the Network.

The statement was followed by an assessment of the parliamentarians' familiarity with key concepts as well as the relationships between these concepts and the various missions of the National Assembly. Then the floor was opened for the participants to introduce themselves one by one, stating their full names, and to share their expectations of and concerns over the workshop.

The participants were then asked to benchmark their expectations, their concerns, their goals and the expected results in terms of the workshop.

The preparation phase ended with the development of a workshop code of conduct, the identification of rapporteurs and a time manager, and the sharing of information on logistics.

The participants then discussed in groups the definition of concepts such as sex, gender and poverty.

After reporting back and discussing the results of that first group work activity, the participants were asked to take part in another group assignment on the nexus between gender and poverty, as well as between gender and the missions of the National Assembly. In this regard, a presentation on the community role of parliamentarians (community monitoring) was made to the group examining the relationships between gender and poverty.

During the lunch break, the opportunity was seized to further investigate certain issues and clarify certain ambiguities.

Discussions in groups and in plenary sessions continued on the roles and responsibilities of the Gender Network at different levels.

A presentation was later made on some tools for gender-based analysis. After a few clarification questions, parliamentarians met in group to discuss the adaptability of these tools to the various missions of the National Assembly. They were given an opportunity to customize the tools.

At the end of the training, a post-workshop assessment was made to measure the parliamentarians' knowledge of the themes discussed against the results of the earlier assessment.

Furthermore, at the end of day One, the participants provided an evaluation, and as a result, the facilitators were able to address the major concerns raised the following day. On day Two, the whole workshop was fully assessed.

Finally, the participants' ideas were fleshed out and complemented with the information contained in the various supporting materials prepared by the facilitation team.

Conclusion

The training workshop for the members of the Niger Parliamentarians Network on Gender received special support from Parliament. In fact, not only was the workshop an integral part of the first session of Parliament's agenda for 2006, but it was also closely followed up by the 4th Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly.

The following were the main outcomes of the workshop: (i) enhanced knowledge of the themes discussed by the participants; (ii) definition of the roles and responsibilities of the Network and of the actions that need to be taken within both the Network and Parliament, at the national and international levels; (iii) identification of six (6) tools for gender-based analysis that are relevant to fulfilling parliamentary missions. The Network members suggested meeting again by the end of April with the facilitation team in order to develop an action plan for the Network.