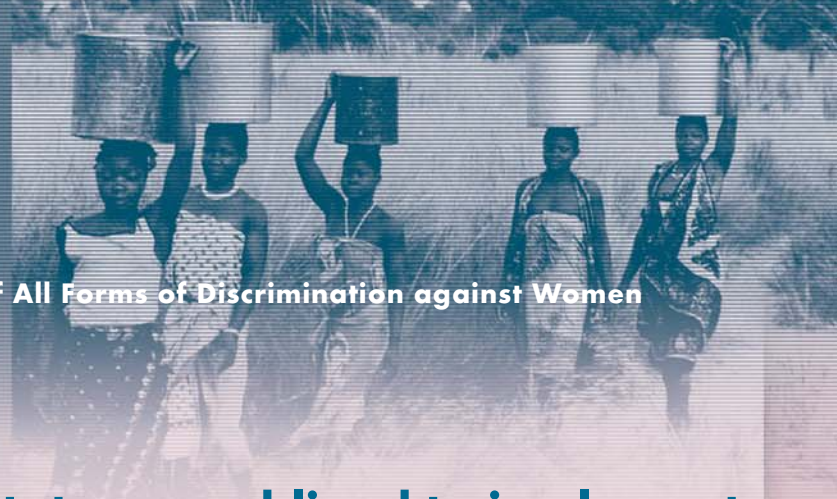




CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women



Switzerland and its partner states are obliged to implement CEDAW. How does that affect the SDC?

There is a tradition of equality and gender mainstreaming at the SDC. The implementation of the Millennium Development Goals calls for a special commitment for the promotion of equality. CEDAW adds a further dimension to reinforce this commitment:

- **CEDAW gives the demand for equality an international authority:** By signing up to CEDAW, the States parties have freely committed themselves to an active equal rights policy. This is also something that civil society is entitled to demand. However, the other Treaty States are also entitled to demand that their partner states respect the Convention.
- **CEDAW provides an international framework for the commitment in favour of women:** the States commit themselves to equality in all spheres of life - even when this involves awkward issues of power. (For the detailed obligations, see the Committee's General Recommendations at www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations.htm)
- **CEDAW makes the fight against discrimination a duty – and a right of women who are discriminated against.** Measures against discrimination and for equality are no longer simply politically desirable, they are binding. The advancement of women is a legitimate right of women who are discriminated against, and a key element for their «empowerment».
- **CEDAW creates international monitoring mechanisms, which call for international responsibility.** The States' reports provide valuable information about the situation of women and equality, and incorporate declarations of intent by the responsible governments. The Committee discusses the reports in public, and formulates recommendations. These can also be used for development cooperation. (For the State reports of individual countries and the comments of the Committee, go to: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/reports.htm)

The SDC Directorate has decided to implement the following recommendations of the CEDAW Committee for Switzerland, as a matter of priority:

- **Internal equality: the equality mechanisms in place within the SDC are to be reinforced.**
 - Equal opportunities
 - Discrimination-free job evaluation and pay
 - Compatibility of family and career
- **Equality for men and women in the partner states should be especially promoted in the following areas.**

Improved measures

 - against genital mutilation
 - against trafficking in women
 - to promote statistics differentiated by gender
 - to promote women's media networks
 - for the consistent implementation of the gender clause in recruitment and purchasing
 - for checking gender-differentiated effects of macroeconomic measures

So now, the question is «how»...

