

CONFERENCE VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION

The conference took place at the Beijing Conference Centre (BICC). The delegation was accommodated at the Gauteng Regency Hotel, a few kilometres from the BICC. Five members of the delegation (Ms Mbere, Ms Nsoelengoe, Ms Makwane, Ms Klugman and Ms Vilakazi-Tselane) left South Africa earlier to attend the Non-Government Forum in Hanoi, and were accommodated at the Golden Leaf and Grade Hotels. The delegates' flights, accommodation and subsistence were covered by the respective departments, organisations and sponsors.

WORK ORGANISATION AND PARTICIPATION BY DELEGATES

Delegates were allocated tasks in line with plenary sessions, and the 12 areas of the Platform for Action were discussed at informal South African delegation meetings and with delegates from Africa and other developing countries. Amendments to the Platform for Action were worked through in large international Working Groups before final debate and ratification in the Main Committee of the Conference.



Administrative tasks included media and communication, documentation, public relations/liaison, exhibition at the NGO Forum, dissemination of information and recording of minutes.

Three meetings were held on a daily basis: a morning meeting to allocate daily tasks according to the programme; a lunch-time meeting to touch base and make changes if necessary; and an evening meeting to review the day's events and prepare for the following day. Delegates submitted written reports on the sessions and events they attended. Participation at the conference involved a lot of lobbying and interaction with other countries and United Nations agencies such as UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNHCR, UNFPA, and UNEP.

Delegates also attended special events organised by different agencies of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.



THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR ENABLING THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BEIJING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AND REPORT BACK ON THEIR RETURN:

Swedish Embassy
 Royal Netherlands Embassy
 Office of the Reconstruction and Development Programme
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
 United Nations Population Development Fund (UNFPA) and
 NEDCOR.

"Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of oppression. To this end, we have acknowledged that the objectives of our Reconstruction and Development Programme will not be realised unless we see, in visible and practical terms, that the condition of women in our country has radically changed for the better, and that women at every level have been empowered to intervene in all aspects of life as equals with any other member of society. My government is committed to a reallocation of resources to ensure the achievement of this objective."

President Nelson Mandela

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