

WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



# WOMEN'S POLICY, 2001

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA



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## PREFACE

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979. The Convention binds signatory nations to end all form of discrimination against women and to incorporate the principle of equality in their legal system.

Maharashtra was the first state in India to formulate women's policy in the year 1994. A large number of initiatives emerged thereafter. The Government of India also took a historic decision to provide 1/3rd reservation for women at all levels in urban and rural bodies, through the Constitution Amendments (73rd & 74th).

The Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing in 1995 placed an agenda in the form of the Beijing Platform which aims at the implementation of the Nairobi Forward looking strategies for the Advancement of Women embracing the fundamental principles set forth in the Vienna Declaration of the World Conference of Human Rights.

2. A lot has been done - much remains to be done. The Women's Policy 1994 provides for review after three years. A draft of the revised policy was discussed in the State Legislature during July 1998. The present draft has been prepared after taking into account these discussions and the responses received in the discussions in other forums.

3. Traditionally, women have nursed the family, preserved the social system, sustained the society and worked behind the scenes for