

# Paradox of Gender Equality in Nigerian Politics

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## Chapter 3

# The Economic Context of Gender Equality in Nigeria

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### Introduction

Gender equity and equality issues are central to the social and economic life of every country. The extant literature views gender equity as the basis for the full promotion and improvement of the status of women in all areas, particularly in the distribution of power, influence and economic independence. And it has been argued that equity leads to equality. To ensure that measures must often be made available to compensate for historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women provided an internationally-agreed agenda and strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women. Equality between women and men is seen as a human rights' issue and as a precondition for and indicator of sustainable human development. Gender mainstreaming was firmly established as the methodology to be adopted by governments and the international community for realising these goals. It was enunciated that gender mainstreaming is not an end in itself but