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**Inter-Agency Network on Women and
Gender Equality**

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**Report of the Seventeenth Annual Session of the Inter-
Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality**

New York, 10-11 March 2018

The 17th annual session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) was held on 10-11 March 2018 in New York. Discussions focused on thematic and emerging issues of system-wide relevance; the implementation of the Secretary-General's system-wide gender parity strategy; the gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and accountability mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The session also featured a dialogue with the Chair of the Network, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women, that focused on enhancing interagency collaboration for the work on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Opportunities for inter-agency contributions to inter-governmental processes for 2018-2019, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the High Level Political Forum, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, were also discussed.

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Opening Session

The seventeenth annual session of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) was held from 10-11 March 2018 in New York. Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Director, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women, and Secretary of IANWGE, opened the session.

In her opening remarks, the Secretary welcomed the members to the session and expressed her appreciation to all who contributed to the preparations for the meeting as well as members who volunteered to join as discussants and moderators. The Secretary emphasized the important role the Network plays in supporting the monitoring and gender responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Secretary noted that the annual meeting would focus on emerging issues of system-wide relevance, including the Secretary-General's System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity, the gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), accountability for gender equality and empowerment of women through the UN System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), and opportunities for the Network to contribute to Inter-Governmental processes for 2018-2019.

Session I: Representation of Women in the UN System

The objective of the first session was to update IANWGE members on the implementation of the Secretary-General's System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity. The session was moderated by Ms. Hedda Femundsenden, Gender Coordinator at UNIDO, and included a presentation and plenary discussion with Ms. Katja Pehrman, Senior Adviser at UN Women.

Lead discussant: Katja Pehrman, Senior Adviser, UN Women

In September 2017, the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) launched his new System-Wide Strategy on Gender Parity (the strategy). The strategy provides recommendations and guidance to reach parity at the senior levels of leadership by 2021, and ultimately across the board by 2028. Ms. Pehrman presented members with an update on the strategy, emphasizing the importance of setting the tone from the top and noting that the organization cannot be credible and effective in its programming if it is unable to achieve gender parity with its own knowledge and resources.

Currently, gender parity has only been reached at the P-1 and P-2 levels. In addition, the representation of women in the UN is negatively correlated with seniority, culminating in women comprising only 26.8% of the UG (ungraded) levels. The Secretary-General has repeatedly stressed that gender parity is both an "urgent priority" and an "operational necessity". His

commitment to gender parity has resulted in slight improvements at the highest levels, with the Senior Management Group achieving gender parity for the first time in UN history in January 2018.

The SG has requested that all entities submit action plans on his recommended actions. Ms. Pehrman explained that monitoring and follow-up will be an important part of the process. The first reporting on progress made by all UN entities will occur in June/July 2018, followed by a second report in December 2018. Bi-annual reporting to the Senior Management Group and Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) will continue until parity is attained at all levels in the UN system, with a deadline having been set for 2028.

For UN Women's implementation plan, Ms. Pehrman reviewed UN Women-specific recommendations contained in the strategy, including the development of a guidance to promote an enabling environment in conjunction with the CEB and Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM). In November 2017, a gender parity workshop in Geneva brought together Human Resources (HR) representatives and Gender Focal Points to discuss creating enabling environments for gender parity. Focal points' active participation and engagement, and their sharing of insights was helpful to inform the aforementioned guidance.

The strategy recognizes the centrality of Gender Focal Points in advancing gender parity, and focal points were encouraged to cite this reference in the strategy to enhance their roles. The strengthening of the Gender Focal Point network is one of the key ways in which UN Women is supporting the implementation of the strategy, recognizing their roles as agents of change. A repository of resources and materials, including templates and policy examples, can be accessed through UN Women's UN-SWAP Knowledge Hub. UN Women also provides additional support to Gender Focal Points in the form of capacity-building trainings, the dissemination of best practices, interagency coordination, and monitoring and reporting. In particular, Ms. Pehrman shared plans for trainings on responding to allegations of harassment, including sexual harassment, abuse of power and discrimination, to be held for Gender Focal Points, including with advice bodies such as the Ethics Office, the Victims' Rights Advocate, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the Office of Staff Legal Assistance (OSLA) and the Staff Councilor's Office.

The role of shadow reporting by civil society was emphasized as a vital external measure to track entities' implementation of the strategy. The shadow reporting will be initiated following the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and pending resources, the findings are expected to be delivered at CSW63 in March 2019.

Recent advocacy and communication products by UN Women include UN Women's implementation plan, an infographic providing a gender analysis of entity budgets titled "Mind the Financial Gap", and information on gender-inclusive communications. Gender Focal Points were

invited to share their good practices with UN Women to disseminate and elevate these examples to the broader UN system. As an example, Ms. Pehrman spoke of plans to host a brownbag lunch with representatives from UNICEF to showcase the progress they have made in augmenting their parental leave policy. Furthermore, the International Gender Champions initiative was highlighted as one of the key recommendations of the SG's strategy and as a means for Executive Heads to increase their visibility and commitments to gender parity.

IANWGE members were invited to attend UN Women's CSW side-event titled 'System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity: How to Walk the Talk'. The event would include as panelists Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, USG and Executive Director of UN Women; Ana Maria Menendez, USG and Senior Adviser on Policy; Radhika Balakrishnan, Faculty Director at the Center for Women's Global Leadership & Professor in Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University; and Dean Peacock, Co-founder & Co-Executive Director of Sonke Gender Justice.

Several entities spoke of the complexity of identifying where the responsibilities for gender parity lie within entities, highlighting that though traditionally delegated to Gender Focal Points, many of the recommended measures and actions, especially regarding recruitment, lie within the remit of Human Resources (HR). The majority of entities reported having a good working relationship with their HR departments, although some shared that historic silos between these two departments has impeded collaboration. Several representatives who occupy both the HR and Gender Focal Point roles in their agency offered to share best practices on how improvements could be made to bridge gaps between departments. Entities repeatedly raised the need for senior management to advocate for gender parity, with one entity sharing that the championing of gender parity by senior management had resulted in their HR department prioritizing the work and becoming more inclusive of Gender Focal Points. Concerns were also raised regarding the lack of commensurate resources to carry out the recommendations of the Gender Parity Strategy.

IANWGE members commended the strategy's efforts to strengthen accountability for gender parity. There was recognition of the need to empower hiring managers and to use data to better inform their decisions. Importantly, several entities commented on the necessity of creating an enabling environment for all staff, with several citing the need for behavioral and institutional change. Members were encouraged to improve compliance in their reporting to the ICSC, which has a standing mandate to improve the status of women in the UN, and which reports to the Fifth Committee.

Several entities reported that they are still working on their action plans for the strategy, and welcomed the support and sharing of tools and best practices by UN Women. Gender Focal Points were encouraged to make their action plans public to better enable civil society to shadow report on the strategy, which would have the effect of placing additional pressure on entities to create lasting change. Mr. Pehrman emphasized that the attainment of gender parity requires multiple

stakeholders, including entities, civil society and Member States, and reiterated the central role that Gender Focal Points play in empowering and educating hiring managers and staff across the UN system.

Session II: Gender-responsive SDG implementation

The objective of the session was to share information on the progress of UN entities to support, promote and advocate for the gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to identify opportunities for interagency and joint initiatives. The session was moderated by Ms. Angela Mwai, Gender Adviser, UN-Habitat, and included three presentations followed by a plenary discussion.

a) Shahra Razavi, Chief, Research and Data, Policy Division - UN Women SDG Report: Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda

UN Women's new flagship report, "Turning promises into action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (the report), provides a comprehensive and authoritative assessment of progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the SDGs from a gender perspective. The report monitors global and regional trends in achieving the SDGs for women and girls based on available data, and provides practical guidance for the implementation of gender-responsive policies and accountability processes.

Ms. Shahra Razavi, Chief of Research and Data in UN Women, presented the Network with highlights and key takeaways from the report. Three elements that are critical for effective implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda are 1) robust and timely data, 2) stronger accountability mechanisms, and 3) transformative policies. The report reviews the progress on gender equality across all the 17 SDGs, revealing that in many areas progress is too slow to achieve the targets by 2030. Ms. Razavi showcased examples from Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 5, and Goal 15, alongside an overview of the in-depth analysis conducted for four countries (Colombia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and United States of America) to assess which groups of women and girls are being systematically left behind. Concrete recommendations for accelerating progress were also showcased.

The report reiterates that women who face multiple forms of discrimination have been left behind on many indicators. Globally, nineteen per cent, or one in five women, has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner during the past twelve months. Although significant progress has been made in terms of legislation - with three quarters of all countries having laws in place to address violence against women - implementation of this legislation remains weak. The Report stresses that gender inequalities are all-pervasive, and are common across both developed and developing nations, pointing to the relevance and universality of the Agenda 2030.

Recommendations for transformative policies include investing in quality childcare services that will help advance a range of child and gender-related targets across Goals 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8.

Speaking to the methodology of the research, Ms. Razavi explained that UN Women had used the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs), along with supplementary indicators for goals without gender specific indicators. UN Women is working on developing methodologies for Tier III indicators with sister agencies, including on discriminatory laws, the representation of women in local governments, and women's access to land.

In an interactive discussion following the presentation, participants raised concerns on the constraints of funding for data collection, as well as the risk of the politicization of data disaggregation by member states. UN Women welcomed participants' suggestions for greater coherence amongst flagship reports on the 2030 Agenda - both by UN Women and across the UN System.

b) Antonio Cisneros, Gender Adviser, OHCHR - Integrated normative frameworks for SDG implementation – gender equality and women's rights

Mr. Cisneros briefed the network on the inter-linkages between gender-relevant normative frameworks and the SDGs. Reflecting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), he shared that while the MDGs had helped expand the concept of human rights, their focus was very narrow. Having been developed by experts without consultation with civil society, they applied only to developing countries and reduced human rights to a limited number of indicators.

In contrast, the SDGs were negotiated and agreed to by all Member States and their development took place via an open and participatory process. Being universally applicable to all States and peoples, the 2030 Agenda truly represents having a human rights-based development agenda, which is focused on the principles of 'leaving no one behind' and on reaching the 'furthest behind first'. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be fully aligned with international human rights norms and standards.

The human rights dimensions of each SDG, including relevant frameworks and international human rights instruments, was outlined. It is important that recommendations from international human rights mechanisms guide the implementation of the SDGs. Speaking to the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and UN Programming, the importance of considering international human rights norms and standards during the development of the new UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) was also highlighted.

The UN Development Group (UNDG) guidelines for the forthcoming UNDAFs prioritize the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in full alignment with international human rights standards, including internationally agreed policy frameworks such as the Beijing Platform for Action. The

UNDG further encourages UNDAFs to be grounded in the principle of leaving no one behind, and in particular to identify and combat intersectional discrimination. With the view of having UNDAFs serve as a strategic document, active and meaningful civil society participation and the establishment of robust, participatory, and transparent accountability mechanisms is critical.

It was emphasized that an integrated response allows UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to be better prepared to link the UNDAF with the issues that emerged from the Rio+20 Conference. Gender equality and women's human rights have been merged into one programming principle, whereby every country team is required to report annually on what it is doing to improve women's empowerment, gender equality and women's human rights.

Finally, Mr. Cisneros highlighted that in following a human rights-based approach to meet the SDGs, it is important not only to place a duty on duty bearers to provide necessary services, but also to empower civil society to claim their rights.

Participants raised the challenges for member states to report on human rights under different mechanisms and treaty bodies, calling on OHCHR and other human rights mechanisms to link reporting for the SDGs and those on conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). CEDAW's practice of linking its recommendations to specific SDGs was raised as a best practice for other treaty bodies to follow. OHCHR has also developed a tool which allows one to review the recommendations made to any given country. The need to support member states in strengthening coherence across national gender plans, human rights action plans, and SDG implementation plans, was raised. Participants echoed the importance of the UN system speaking with one voice, and moving towards enhanced UNCTs.

c) Fleur Newman, Gender Affairs Officer, UNFCCC – Presentation of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Gender Action Plan and its interlinkages to the 2030 Agenda.

Continuing the session on interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and intergovernmental, normative frameworks, Ms. Newman presented on the '*UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan and its interlinkages to the 2030 Agenda*'.

Ms. Newman traced the timeline of the incorporation of gender considerations into the UNFCCC process. The Lima Work Programme on Gender - enhanced and extended to 2019 – provides a framework for ongoing work on gender equality and women's empowerment under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. The preamble of the Lima work programme underscores the importance of coherence between gender-responsive climate policies and gender parity in Convention processes and international instruments and outcomes, including

the 2030 Agenda. For the first time, all constituted bodies under the UNFCCC process are to report on progress made to integrate gender considerations.

The UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, developed in 2017, has five priority areas, namely 1) capacity building, knowledge sharing and communication; 2) gender balance, participation and women's leadership; 3) coherence; 4) gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; and 5) monitoring and reporting.

Much like gender, climate change is a cross cutting issue within the 2030 Agenda, extending beyond environmental challenges to the economic challenges of inequality. Ms. Newman shared that of all the national action plans submitted under the Paris Agreement, only those submitted by developing countries referenced gender equality and women's empowerment considerations. The need for all Member States' climate change policies to be gender responsive was emphasized.

During the plenary discussion, participants inquired about methodologies and tools to help the UN system or Member States promote 'multiple mainstreaming'. Ms. Newman spoke of UNFCCC's work with UNDP in the Western Balkans as an example of supporting countries to mainstream both gender and climate change. In particular, the national communications toolkit which was created, provided a methodology to identify entry points for mainstreaming gender and climate change at each stage of the process when developing national communications plans and gender strategies. However, Ms. Newman emphasized that this remains an area that demands greater attention and requires support for increased capacity development.

Inter-active dialogue with Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women, and Chair of IANWGE

The Chair welcomed the Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, to a dialogue with IANWGE members on key issues of system-wide relevance. At the outset, several IANWGE members expressed gratitude for UN Women's work, and its collaboration and cooperation with their respective entities. Members also called for enhanced cooperation on various aspects of their work.

Entities raised specific concerns and requests, which included greater attention to financing for gender equality, noting the unstable and unpredictable nature of resources for gender equality work. Many members expressed the need for the work on gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) to be integrated into the regular budget of their entities as they were facing funding gaps.

Multiple entities expressed their appreciation for ongoing collaboration with UN Women on gender mainstreaming, and requested continued support and guidance on policy advocacy and

programming. Entities called for strengthened gender mainstreaming support in areas not necessarily gender-focused or where women are especially under-represented, including in infrastructure, sustainable industrialization, aviation, and climate change.

Considering the Secretary-General's System-wide strategy on parity and existing trends, entities urged the Network, with guidance and leadership from UN Women's Executive Director, to prioritize both system-wide funding and accountability for gender parity, particularly in senior management, including in instances of organizational restructuring.

Some entities drew attention to the importance of increased coordination and the systematic collaboration amongst entities at the country level to drive results for women and girls.

The discussion highlighted that while initiatives like the Secretary-General's hotline and the 'Speak Up' campaign are underway, internal UN system mechanisms to combat sexual harassment at work remain slow. Entities noted that zero tolerance policies must be translated into action, and suggested developing an in-house system comprising of persons of trust who can be trained to be the first ear for any sexual harassment complaints. It was recommended that this system be developed across entities, further expanding the web of business owners for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Executive Director expressed gratitude for all the IANWGE members' work on GEWE. In response to the recommendations and reporting by participating entities, the Executive Director suggested that IANWGE meet more than once a year, and elaborated on the Executive Committee (EC) process. The issue of increasing financing of GEWE work in the UN System has been tabled before the EC. She stressed that the UN needs to systematically address issues of gender equality, noting that it cannot be done by one entity alone.

Addressing the issue of sexual harassment, the Executive Director emphasized the need to change organizational culture. Emphasis must be placed on the prevention of harassment, as well as on treatment of victims and whistleblowers during cases of harassment. The Executive Director recalled that she has raised this issue both with the Secretary-General and with the CEB. Unconscious biases present a strong hindrance to change, as do extended processing times for sexual harassment cases, which is often due to inadequate resources.

Drawing attention to the priority theme of CSW62, the Executive Director spoke of the risk of rural women and girls being left behind unless resources are used collectively to tackle the specific challenges they face. It is important that the Agreed Conclusions be used by Member States to implement changes at the country level.

The Executive Director reaffirmed that continued collaboration between UN Women and all entities is necessary leading into 2020. Entities were encouraged to establish stronger linkages between the 2030 Agenda and the Beijing Platform for Action. Commemoration of Beijing +25 will take place during CSW in 2020.

Session III: Accountability for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

The objective of this session was to update IANWGE members on UN-SWAP 2.0 indicators on results. The session was organized in the form of a presentation by the lead discussant Mr. Tony Beck, followed by presentations from UN entities piloting UN-SWAP 2.0 indicators. It was moderated by Ms. Malinka Koparanova, Senior Social Affairs Officer, UNECE.

Lead discussant: Tony Beck, Consultant, UN Women

Mr. Beck briefed the Network on the development, methodology and the status of implementation of UN-SWAP 2.0.

The intention for shifting the focus of the UN-SWAP from measuring gender mainstreaming across the system to measuring results was agreed upon during the foundational stages of the UN-SWAP in 2012. The UN-SWAP 2.0 framework, which includes the addition of three new performance indicators focused on results, and one performance indicator related to leadership, was developed with a view to fulfill this requirement. These indicators respond to the need to demonstrate entities' contributions to the 2030 Agenda on gender equality and the empowerment of women. A two-year process was required to develop the new indicators and methodology as it presented significant challenges. The UN-SWAP 2.0 will allow the UN System to report and capture the system's contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment in relation to the 2030 Agenda, across all mandates and reporting backgrounds.

The three new indicators on results are:

- Performance Indicator 1 on Gender-related SDG results;
- Performance Indicator 2 on Reporting on gender-related results; and
- Performance Indicator 3 on Programmatic results on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The three new indicators were piloted by 10 entities as a follow up to the UN-SWAP Annual Workshop in Geneva in November 2017, where participants requested further validation of these new indicators. Mr. Beck expressed appreciation for the efforts of the 10 piloting agencies (UNFCCC, UNAIDS, UNOG, WMO, ITU, UNODC, UNIDO, WFP, ESCWA, FAO). The piloting entities tested for (a) feasibility of reporting on each of the three new performance indicators on results, and (b) feasibility of aggregating results across the UN system using the

methodology set out in the UN-SWAP Technical Notes (version November 2017). Each of the 10 piloting entities presented the results of their exercise.

The methodology of the piloting process included an initial explanatory workshop between UN Women and self-identified relevant staff in each entity, with staff from gender equality programming, strategic planning, finance and human resources. This was followed by virtual meetings to discuss their findings. These workshops proved useful for entities to determine whether they currently meet the UN-SWAP 2.0 requirements.

All entities confirmed that reporting against the current methodology in the Technical Notes was feasible in terms of time and resources. It was noted that entities already collect most of the required data, and that efforts would likely be reduced after investments made in the first year of reporting.

Speaking to the system-wide aggregation of results, entities acknowledged the pioneering and experimental nature of UN-SWAP 2.0. The first year of UN SWAP 2.0 reporting will be a trial year in relation to aggregation of results, with the identification of trends once the data is collected. Mr. Beck noted that the term “aggregation” was replaced by “system-wide reporting” for a more accurate representation of the intention behind this objective. For the remainder of 2018, UN Women will work in close collaboration with the UN-SWAP community to generate a framework for system-wide reporting.

In response to the multiple queries from participants on the difference between PI 1 (results included in the strategic plan or framework) and PI 3 (results included outside of the strategic plan or framework), Mr. Beck explained that the latter has been designed for programmatic results that are not captured in the former. These questions made apparent the need for clarifications in the UN-SWAP 2.0 Technical Notes. In relation to Performance Indicator 1, some entities requested a clear definition and examples of the concept of “transformative results” in the Technical Notes.

Entities raised concerns about the support required to be up to speed by the first reporting cycle of UN-SWAP 2.0 in January 2019. Mr. Beck indicated that all recommendations and observations from UN entities would be taken into account during the roll-out process to ensure its success. Similar strategies as those implemented for UN-SWAP 1.0 will be replicated.

As a final remark, the conflation between gender parity and gender equality was briefly discussed as potentially undermining attention to UN-SWAP 2.0. UN Women is working to ensure alignment between the UN-SWAP 2.0 Technical Notes and the 2017 Secretary-General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity. The UN-SWAP 2.0 Technical Notes are expected to be finalized in the coming months.

Session IV: Opportunities for Inter-agency/Network contributions to inter-governmental processes for 2018-2019

The objective of the session was to foster inter-agency collaboration and to identify opportunities for IANWGE to provide gender-relevant inputs into UN intergovernmental meetings, reviews, and summits. This session was moderated by Ms. Susan Kaaria, Senior Gender Officer, FAO, who also led the discussion on the Commission on Status of Women and provided an update on the work of this year's United Nations Task Force on the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women. This was followed by discussions and presentations on possible entry points for IANWGE to contribute to the High Level Political Forum, the UN Decade of Nutrition, and the 11th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

- a) *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW):*
 - i) Update on 2017 Task Force on Rural Women

Lead discussant: Susan Kaaria, Senior Gender Officer, FAO

Ms. Kaaria, FAO, on behalf of the inter-agency Task Force on the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women (the Task Force), briefed the Network on the work of the Task Force in 2017-2018. Led by FAO, together with IFAD, UN Women and WFP, the Task Force was established in 2017 with two objectives: (a) to conduct an online discussion to explore the critical gaps and highlight priority areas for action to accelerate gender-transformative impacts for rural women and girls in preparation for CSW62; and (b) to share good practices widely.

The online discussion on 'Rural Women: striving for gender transformative impact' was run on FAO's online platform called the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition. Contributors were invited to reflect on the current understanding of gender dynamics of rural livelihoods and to share information, views and experiences in preparation for CSW62. The discussion ran for three weeks, with lessons compiled every week. The outcome of this discussion is available online at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i8222e.pdf>. The Task Force also shared a template to standardize inputs for good practices. Good practices that were collected by the Task Force were shared on the CSW62 webpage as well as the webpages of other task force entities.

In preparation for CSW62, the Task Force worked with UN Women to prepare an Expert Group Meeting on the "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls" from 20 to 22 September 2017 in Rome, Italy.

FAO and UNIDO expressed gratitude to members of the Task Force, and to UN Women for its support and guidance in establishing the Task Force and formulating the Terms of Reference. FAO

suggested adopting a more systematic approach to contributing to CSW62 for future task forces. It was decided that a side event be hosted by the Network during the CSW63.

- ii) 2019: Social Protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The priority theme for CSW63 will be “social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”. While acknowledging the diverse nature of the theme, it was recommended that the Network establish a task force to contribute to CSW63.

Several agencies expressed support for a recommendation to establish one task force¹ with different agencies leading each of the three suggested subthemes. The importance of finding a common area and strong linkages among the three subthemes to bind them together was stressed. It was suggested that expert agencies lead each of the three subthemes. PAHO and ILO agreed to convene the first task force meeting with support from UN Women.

b) High-level Political Forum

Lead discussant: Nicole van Huyssteen, Inter-agency Coordination Specialist, UN Women

UN Women proposed that the Network consider potential entry points to engage in the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) for 2018 and 2019. The HLPF was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want", and is the central platform for follow-up and review of the SDGs. The Voluntary National Reviews from member states focusing on specific SDGs provides an opportunity for other intergovernmental bodies to provide their own inputs.

For 2018, the theme of the HLPF, held from 9th to 18th July 2018, will be "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". The Goals to be reviewed in 2018 are:

- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;

¹ PAHO, UN DESA/SCRPD, ILO, UNECA, UNSCN, FAO, WFP, Rome-based Agencies volunteered to join the task force for the subtheme on social protection systems. WFP, UN DESA/SCRPD, UN HABITAT, UNEP, UNIDO, ICAO, UNSP and ICSC volunteered to contribute to the subtheme on sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. UN DESA, PAHO, WHO and OHCHR volunteered to contribute to the subtheme on access to public services.

- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss; and
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

For 2019, the theme of the HLPF will be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The SDGs that will be reviewed are:

- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries;
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Entities agreed that due to the limited time remaining before HLPF in 2018 the Network should instead focus on effectively participating in 2019.

UNSCN noted that an Expert Group Meeting in June to review Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17 through a nutrition lens could be used as an opportunity to potentially engage in HLPF 2018, by mainstreaming gender considerations into the EGM discussions. Several agencies expressed support and interest in capitalizing on this opportunity. UN Women noted that there will be an Expert Group Meeting in Nairobi in May on the interlinkages between SDG 5 with the SDGs being reviewed by the HLPF in 2018.

With regards to possible entry points for gender equality, it was proposed that the Network host a side event during HLPF 2019. It was agreed that IANWGE would plan a high-level side event on the ways in which gender has been integrated into all of the SDGs. It was noted that 2019 will mark the final Forum before the whole SDG process is reviewed. OHCHR recommended that each agency should mainstream gender in any regional and national processes that feed into the Forum throughout the year.

c) UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

Lead discussant: Stineka Oenema, UNSCN Coordinator, United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)

The General Assembly proclaimed the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016-2025. The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition is a commitment of Member States to undertake ten years of sustained and coherent implementation of policies and programmes, following the recommendations and commitments of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Framework for Action and the 2030 Agenda. The Decade aims to increase the visibility of nutrition action at the highest level and ensure coordination, strengthened multi-sectoral collaboration, the creation of synergies and measured progress towards sustainable food systems and food and nutrition security for all.

There is an urgent need to mainstream nutrition across all SDGs given that current trends do not favour the elimination of all forms of malnutrition by 2030. Ms. Oenema emphasized that the following changes are required to successfully eliminate all forms of malnutrition:

- Policy coherence at all levels;
- Scaled up implementation;
- Enhanced synergies;
- Increased efforts to build on existing and ongoing efforts to maximize investments, and
- A coherent message to advocate for nutrition across all entities.

The Network was encouraged to explore opportunities to embed nutrition in their respective entities, and UNSCN's flagship publication on actions was shared as a resource. In addition, Ms. Oenema committed to preparing and disseminating a two-page technical guidance to assist entities to mainstream nutrition considerations more effectively.

Entities expressed concern over the lack of data on nutrition disaggregated by sex. It was suggested that Special Rapporteurs be leveraged to provide evidence that supports policies. With regards to data collection, it was recommended that indicators be included at regional, national and international levels.

In conclusion, UNSCN called upon the Network to advocate for mainstreaming of nutrition in gender data and offered to provide technical guidance to agencies that were interested.

d) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Opportunities for contributions by the Network

Lead discussant: Akiko Ito, Chief, Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN DESA

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006, which stipulates that State Parties meet regularly in a Conference of State Parties (CoSP). Since 2008, the CoSP has been supported by UN DESA/SCRPD. The CoSP uniquely deals with substantive issues to promote the exchange of ideas and support the implementation of the Convention. The Convention is situated such that it interprets the 2030 Agenda in the context of rights of people with disabilities. This is important for the CoSP's work since it uses the Convention as the underlying principle when responding to the selected themes and subthemes.

The 11th session of the CoSP to the CRPD is scheduled to take place from 12-14 June 2018 in New York. The overarching theme of the Conference is 'Leaving No One Behind through the Full Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities'. One of the three subthemes this year will be "women and girls with disabilities". The CoSP expects over 1500 participants from 130 countries and hosts around 70-80 side events every year.

Ms. Ito suggested the following ways in which the entities could participate in the upcoming CoSP:

- Recommend specific candidates for the roundtable discussions for the subthemes by 30 March 2018;
- Participate and make statements at the General Debate on 12 June 2018, noting that statements need to be less than 3 minutes; and/or
- Provide contributions to the subthemes by way of reports, background documents, or other resources which can be uploaded on the resource page.

The lack of gender balance among candidates for the Committee of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was emphasized, and entities who would be making statements during the General Debate were called upon to highlight this gap. It was recalled that during the last election in 2016, there was only one woman on this Committee. The importance of gender parity and the essentiality of State Parties to nominate female candidates, not only for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but to all Human Rights Treaty Bodies, was stressed.

Information on the 2017 Secretary-General's Report on *The situation of women and girls with disabilities*² was shared. The report was drafted in consultation with various entities, as well as drawing from an Expert Group Meeting with UNFPA on sexual and reproductive health rights and ending violence against women and girls with disabilities.

Session V: Other Matters

² <http://undocs.org/A/72/227>

The IANWGE Secretary thanked participants for the productive discussion over the two days of the session and raised a number of administrative and other matters during the final session.

a) Rotating IANWGE co-chair

Recalling a discussion about the possibility of having a rotating co-chair during the Network's 2017 Annual Meeting, the Secretary noted that currently the Under Secretary-General (USG) of UN Women serves as the IANWGE chair and that the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) of UN Women serves as its co-chair. Moving forward, the Secretary proposed that the members discuss the feasibility and logistics of having a rotating co-chair. It was agreed that UN Women will remain chair and co-chair of the Network.

b) Dates for 18th Annual Session of IANWGE

It was decided that the Network would continue to align its annual meeting with CSW in New York. Due to the limited time between International Women's Day and the beginning of CSW63, the Network tentatively agreed to schedule the 2019 annual IANWGE meeting for the end of the first week of CSW, on Thursday 14 March and Friday 15 March.

The meeting will continue to be held for two days, allowing sufficient room to discuss substantive issues as well as provide time for networking.

c) International Women's Day 2019 Theme

The Secretary requested members to start thinking about potential themes for International Women's Day 2019, noting that it is typically linked to the CSW priority theme. Entities agreed to discuss the topic with their colleagues and entities, and to submit suggestions to UN Women before the next inter-sessional meeting of IANWGE.

d) Any other business

UN Women shared that the Secretary General has requested the establishment of a high-level task force on Financing for Gender Equality, which is still in the early stages of preparation. The task force will aim to produce a recommendation paper for the high-level coordination committee for the UN System. The Secretary will inform members on the most effective means to contribute to the task force.

Members shared their concerns about scarcity of financial resources for work on gender equality, noting that with the current downsizing in the UN System, human and financial resources for the portfolio will be adversely affected. Members who are already working on financing for gender

equality were invited to share information with the Network, to allow other entities to incorporate recommendations into their ongoing work.

17th Annual Session
United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)
10-11 March 2018
UN Women Conference Room 19-19
MEETING AGENDA

DAY ONE		
Saturday 10 March 2018 (9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.)		
9.00 a.m.- 9.30 a.m.	COFFEE & TEA	
Opening Session		
09:30 a.m. - 09:45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction and adoption of agenda - Aparna Mehrotra, IANWGE Secretary 	
Session I: Representation of Women in the UN System		
09:45 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.	<p><u>Objective:</u> Update on the SG’s System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity and its implementation by UN Women</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> Presentation and plenary discussion</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u> Katja Pehrman, Senior Adviser, UN Women</p>	<p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p><i>Hedda Femundsenden, (UNIDO)</i></p>
Session II: Gender-responsive SDG implementation		
10:30 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.	<p><u>Objective:</u> To share information on what UN entities have done to support/promote/advocate for gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs, and identify opportunities for interagency/joint initiatives.</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> Presentations followed by plenary discussion</p> <p><u>Presenter:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shahra Razavi, Chief, Research and Data, Policy Division - UN Women SDG Report: Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda 	<p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p><i>Angela Mwai (UN-Habitat)</i></p>
11.15 a.m.- 11.30 a.m.	COFFEE & TEA	

Session II: Gender-responsive SDG implementation (continued)		
11:30 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.	<p><u>Objective:</u> To share information on what UN entities have done to support/promote/advocate for gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs, and identify opportunities for interagency/joint initiatives.</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> Presentations followed by plenary discussion.</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonio Cisneros, OHCHR - Integrated normative frameworks for SDG implementation – gender equality and women’s rights • Fleur Newman, UNFCCC – Presentation of UNFCCC’s Gender Action Plan and its inter-linkages to the 2030 Agenda. <p>Entities are invited to briefly share, during the plenary discussion, ways in which they have incorporated links to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in their own Gender Action Plans and Gender Policies.</p>	<p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p><i>Angela Mwai (UN-Habitat)</i></p>
12.15 p.m.- 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH (Catered)	
Session III: Accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women		
1:15 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	<p><u>Objective:</u> Update and reporting by UN entities piloting UN-SWAP 2.0 indicators on results</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> Roundtable and plenary discussion</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u> Tony Beck, Consultant, UN Women UN entities piloting the indicators</p>	<p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p><i>Malinka Koparanova (UNECE)</i></p>
3.00 p.m.- 3.30 p.m.	COFFEE & TEA	
3.30 p.m.- 5.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks and interactive dialogue - Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women and Chair of IANWGE 	

	ii. Opportunities for IANWGE entry points/contribution	<i>Speaker: Stineka Oenema, (UNSCN Coordinator)</i> <i>Speaker: Akiko Ito (UN DESA)</i>
11.00 a.m.- 11.30 a.m.	COFFEE & TEA	
Session V: Other Matters		
11.30 a.m.- 12.15 p.m.	a. Rotating IANWGE co-chair b. IWD 2019 Theme c. Dates for 18 th Annual Session of IANWGE	<u>Moderator</u> <i>Aparna Mehrotra, IANWGE Secretary</i>
12.15 p.m.- 12.45 p.m.	Closing session – Feedback from members on the annual meeting and way forward	

In-person List of Attendees: IANWGE Annual Meeting 2018

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