

Background Note: Briefing to the Executive Board, Annual Session 2023

“The implementation of General Assembly resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the United Nations development system”

***Summary:** This information note provides an update on how UN-Women has continued to implement the General Assembly’s Resolution on the repositioning of the United Nations Development System (UNDS) ([A/RES/72/279](#)) in the context of the 2020 quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (2020 QCPR)¹ ([A/RES/75/233](#)) and the review of the functioning of the reinvigorated Resident Coordinator (RC) system, including its funding arrangement ([A/RES/76/4](#)). The information note covers the period from May 2022 to April 2023 since the last update was provided to the Executive Board.*

I. Implementing the UNDS reform in the context of the 2020 QCPR and UN Women’s Strategic Plan 2022-2025

The 2020 QCPR acknowledges the importance of improving coordination and coherence within the UNDS to aid in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in line with national priorities. UN-Women has continued its efforts to enhance the UNDS’s coordination and coherence to address the specific needs of women and girls. UN-Women utilizes its triple mandate of coordination, normative, and operational functions to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls from the global to the country level. As this information note demonstrates, the first year of implementing [UN-Women’s Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#) shows significant progress in the Entity’s contribution to the UNDS repositioning, including in its coordination of the UN system (UNS) to drive coherent and systematic contributions to gender equality and women’s empowerment at the country level where they can have the most impact.

II. Supporting the consolidation of UN development system reforms

A. New Management and Accountability Framework

UN-Women continues to be aligned with the new Management and Accountability Framework (MAF). The Performance Management approach is reflected in the job description of its Country Representatives who share their performance goal related to their United Nations Country Team (UNCT) work at the beginning of the year with their respective RC. The Regional Director seeks feedback on the performance on this goal from the RC at the end of the year.

With respect to the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and sexual harassment (SH), UN-Women accords the matter high priority. Through its expanded network of in-country PSEA and SH focal points, UN-Women has actively participated in in-country PSEA programmes and inter-agency PSEA networks. These are expertly concerted by the PSEA Coordinator where deployed, under the leadership of the RCs. To coordinate and support the network of UN-Women focal points for their inter-agency tasks, UN-Women has created a dedicated PSEA and SH Specialist position. Moreover, as a long-standing active participant in the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Working Group and a new member of the Inter Agency Standing Committee PSEA Technical Advisory Group, UN-Women has provided technical advice and input to key tools developed to aid the effective tackling of SEA at country-level, thus contributing to the operationalization of the MAF PSEA provisions.

¹ Progress updates on UN-Women’s implementation of the UNDS reform are presented in detail in the annex to the annual report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the QCPR and are mainstreamed into the annual report of the Executive Director and the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of UN-Women’s Strategic Plan 2022–2025.

B. Alignment of Country Strategic Notes with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

UN-Women offices assist UNCTs in prioritizing gender equality in the Country Common Analysis (CCA) and United Nations System Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs),² using Country Gender Equality Profiles produced in 23 countries to identify gaps for improvement. In 2022, 26 UN-Women country offices developed new Strategic Notes (SNs), aligned with the UNSDCF, and engaged RCs in line with the MAF. Half of the UNCTs that developed a UNSDCF included a gender equality outcome (18 out of 36), and 58% mainstreamed gender across all outcomes (21). UN-Women conducted 8 Strategic Dialogue pilots across 5 regions since 2022 to effectively integrate gender considerations into the CCAs and UNSDCF, 2 of which included the RC's participation.³

C. Funding the Resident Coordinator system

UN-Women is up to date with its funding obligations to support the activities of the RC system having transferred USD 5.2 million for the period 2022-2023.

D. Inter-agency mobility and facilitation of a mobile and flexible global workforce

UN-Women continues to support inter-agency movement and to use the inter-agency agreement to support career growth for both incoming and outgoing staff (8 and 7, respectively, in 2023). For 4 years, the Entity has deployed a Gender Advisor in UNDCO to support gender mainstreaming in the UNDS reform implementation throughout the RC system. For 6 years, the Entity has seconded a Gender Advisor to the Peacebuilding Support Office at the Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, contributing to the positioning of Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda throughout the United Nations System (UNS) and among members of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, and in peacebuilding and conflict prevention policy decisions. The secondment has also contributed to the success story of the Secretary-General's Peace Building Fund (PBF) sustainably exceeding its 30% gender funding target towards projects supporting gender equality and women's empowerment (47% in 2022, up from 40% in 2020). The Entity continues to promote the RC function as a career path for its staff, with several active RC members. UN-Women also continues to nominate and add to the RC/Humanitarian Coordinator Talent Pipeline. The Entity places gender expertise in RC offices in countries where it does not have presence, Ghana and Guinea being recent examples.

In 2022, UN-Women embarked on a global 360 feedback exercise based on its leadership charter and the UNS leadership framework together with executive coaching for senior managers. The Entity is supporting the UN Secretariat's system-wide Together Mentor Programme via regular capacity building trainings in coaching, mentoring and self-leadership skills for mentors and mentees.

E. Improved and harmonized business practices and efficiency gains

UN-Women continues to participate in the work of the Business Innovation Group (BIG) and is an active participant in the rollout of BOS 2.0. UN-Women is co-chairing with UNDP the Business Operations Strategies (BOS) at regional level in Europe and Central Asia. The Entity participates in the Common Back Office (CBO) roll-out and expects to continue its participation both in the BOS as well as the CBO roll-out where it makes financial sense as a service recipient.

UN-Women participated in the data collection exercise for the Secretary-General's annual report on efficiency gains and effectiveness improvements covering 2020-2021. UN-Women reported a total of \$1,800,000 for 2020

² Following the twin-track, ideally UNSDCF should reflect both a stand-alone goal dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) and the mainstreaming of gender equality across the entire result framework.

³ In Lebanon, Jordan, Papua New Guinea, Palestine, Niger, Ecuador, Bolivia and South Sudan. RCs were present in Niger and Bolivia.

and \$2,600,000 for 2021.⁴ Most of the efficiency gains achieved come from UN-Women's participation in BOS at country level.

The Entity is benefitting from Global Shared Services Centres (GSSCs) by having UNDP manage UN-Women's payroll, Treasury and the new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system – Quantum, whereas the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) manages the investigation function. Depending on the financial viability, UN-Women would be interested in further reviewing and enhancing its use of GSSC services provided that the GSSCs are subject to the same Principles of Client Satisfaction and Costing & Pricing as the Local Shared Services Centers/Common Back Offices. UN-Women participates in the Mutual Recognition Task Team and has signed the principles for mutual recognition along with the Client Satisfaction and Costing & Pricing.

UN-Women has close to 80% of its field presence in common premises, ahead of the target of 50% for co-location.

UN-Women has further strengthened its synergies and inter-agency efforts to maximize efficient use of project resources, though the inter-agency working group on implementing partners. It has joined the UN Partner Portal, reducing duplication in the selection and management of programme partners, joint audits and harmonized practices.

F. Reporting through UN-INFO

The inter-agency UNCT-Gender Equality Marker (UNCT-GEM) is a UNSDG tool to capture how UNCTs are allocating resources collectively towards GEWE. By 2022, 91 UNCTs had applied the UNCT-GEM in their Joint Work Plan, up from 63 UNCTs in 2021 and 43 UNCTs in 2020. A financial threshold of 70% of the UNCT annual funding framework available resources to be allocated to activities with gender equality as a significant or principal objective (UNCT-GEM 2 or UNCT-GEM 3⁵) was introduced in 2021 (QCPR indicator 1.4.18). In 2022, 47% of UNCTs with a Joint Work Plan in UN-INFO reached or exceeded the target of 70%, up from 41% in 2021. An average of 76% of UNCT funding frameworks were dedicated to sub-outputs with UNCT-GEM 2 and UNCT-GEM 3, compared to 64% the previous year.

III. System-wide support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

A. Active engagement in the United Nations Sustainable Development Group

Following the end of the term of the UNSDG Task Team in April 2022, its members continued to work jointly at the global level through the establishment of the UN Gender Equality Network (UN GEN) to further enhance the UNS' coherent response to GEWE. Co-chaired by UNFPA and UN-Women, with DCO acting as Secretariat, the GEN serves as a knowledge sharing forum, with the aim to strengthen UN coherence at country level in terms of common vision and strategic results across the 2030 Agenda and the UNDS reform implementation. It has established common norms and standards for [Gender Theme Groups \(GTG\)](#) and the [UNCT SWAP](#), and is currently working on enhancing gender mainstreaming in UNDSCFs.

UN-Women co-chaired (through May 2022), together with UNEP, the UNSDG Financing Task Team. The task team strengthened the capacity of UNCTs and RCs, as well as of regional bodies, headquarters and country offices to increase financing for the SDGs and deliver on the Secretary-General's Financing Strategy. Accordingly, it conducted training, capacity-building, increased coordination and knowledge on Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) and thematic bond issuance. UNCTs built their capacities on sustainable debt for an inclusive recovery through targeted training videos such as the [UN Introductory Training on Sustainable Financing Instruments for an Inclusive Recovery](#) and [guidance](#) on the use of the CCA to inform thematic debt frameworks.

⁴ In most cases, the efficiency gains cannot be interpreted as actual cash savings for redeployment. Many efficiency gains refer to cost-avoidance and in cases where time savings have been converted into USD equivalent amounts to enable aggregation, the time saved will potentially result in redeployment of capacity, but not actual cash savings.

⁵ GEM 3 tracks resources for activities in which gender equality is the principal objective and GEM 2 in which gender equality is a significant objective. These are opposed to GEM 1 and GEM 0 which track limited or no contribution to gender equality, respectively.

The understanding at the country level of the role of private finance in support of the SDGs and climate finance was strengthened and the [UNSDG Knowledge Portal on SDG Financing](#) was updated, including new resources on financing for development in the era of COVID-19 and best practices on UN-IFI collaboration.

UN-Women actively engaged with the work of the Fiduciary Management Oversight Group (FMOG) through its working group on interagency pooled funds. Relevant questions on the use of the gender equality marker and the establishment of financial targets for gender equality have been strengthened in the second survey of the Funding Compact commitment 14 on common management features in interagency pooled funds and joint programmes.

In addition, UN-Women has supported the update of the 2014 UNDG guidance on *Establishing, Managing and Closing Multi Donor Trust Funds* by providing input for the integration of gender considerations in the terms of reference, theory of change, governance, management and reporting of the Funds, ensuring a gender-responsive functioning and introducing guidance on the use of the gender equality marker and financial targets for gender equality.

The CEB Finance and Budget Network has endorsed the gender equality marker as a UN data standard for system-wide reporting of financial data, including inter-agency pooled funds. According to the latest survey conducted by the FMOG, while the gender equality marker is being adopted by 71% of MPTFs as a financial tracking mechanism, only 42% of the Funds include specific financial targets related to gender equality and barely 6% of MPTFs with financial targets on gender equality include in their reports whether that financial target has been met or surpassed.

B. Support to joint capacity-building initiatives and knowledge management

UN-Women continues to support UN entities in fulfilling its UNDS coordination mandate to ensure that GEWE concerns are integrated and prioritized in all UN programmes and activities. This involves both mainstreaming gender equality into policies, programmes, and decision-making and holding the System accountable for progress and results, including through increased capacity and knowledge.

In 2022, UN-Women continued to support the acceleration of system-wide gender mainstreaming efforts, spearheading the development of guidance, providing capacity development, and coordinating interagency gender mainstreaming mechanisms at global, regional and country levels. Led by UN-Women, the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) developed the first in a series of guidance notes focused on gender analysis in the technical areas of [digital inclusion](#); [energy infrastructure](#); and [climate and disaster risk finance and insurance](#).

UN-Women led, with OHCHR, UNICEF, UNFPA, DCO, and the UN System Staff College, the development of an online foundational course on integrating human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment and "leave no one behind" in the CCA/UNSDCFs. Launched in September 2022, the course is available free of charge for UN staff members.

Through its Technical Secretariat and global helpdesk, UN-Women ensured guidance and capacity development support to the implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP 2.0) and its country-level equivalent, the United Nations Country Team System-wide Action Plan Gender Equality Scorecard (UNCT-SWAP).

UN-Women country and regional offices continued to provide technical and coordination support to the process of development of UNCT-SWAPs to embed UNCT-SWAP gender mainstreaming standards in the UNSDCF processes. The Entity continued to manage the online UNCT-SWAP reporting platform and global network of UNCT-SWAP focal points representing 103 UN country teams. Between June 2022 and February 2023, three global UNCT-SWAP focal point webinars were held on different aspects of the UNCT-SWAP, with the participation of an average of 60 countries, between 15 and 20 UN entities, and approximately 160 participants.

After its launch in January 2022, a roll-out period of the [Gender Theme Groups: Standards and Procedures](#) (GTG S&P) with consultations organized with GTGs helped to assess the suitability of the improved guidance in different contexts, and identify best practices and tools to include in the addenda to the GTG S&P. In total, over 300

participants from 21 UN entities worldwide participated in the pilot sessions and workshops. The pilot sessions concluded in March 2023 with the validation of the findings and recommendations, the sharing of best practices, and the co-creation of solutions to address persistent challenges. The new S&P will leverage the role and responsibilities of GTGs as the main inter-agency mechanism to promote and support gender mainstreaming in all UNCT related processes, programmes and policies.

In support of the [Secretary-General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity](#), UN-Women provided guidance, advice and technical support related to gender parity to 126 UN entities, departments, and offices, including on their entity-specific implementation plans to reach parity by 2028. To ensure that working environments are inclusive and respectful of diverse personnel, UN-Women continued to support the implementation of the Field-specific Enabling Environment Guidelines through leading and coordinating a system-wide network of more than 400 Gender Focal Points. In 2022, UN-Women enhanced the [UN System-wide Dashboard on Gender Parity](#) that consolidates the representation of women and men by entity, grade, staff category, duty station and age group, by adding a parameter to present UNCT level data. Thanks to the dashboard, 38 UN entities across the System and external stakeholders are able to monitor progress and achievements on gender parity. The year 2022 marked the fifth anniversary of the Strategy on Gender Parity, and in this regard UN-Women published the booklet "[How can we reach gender parity at the United Nations by 2028?](#)" presenting 70 good practice examples on how to reach parity and create enabling working environments.

In 2022, 52,309 UN personnel enrolled in UN-Women's flagship *I Know Gender* online course (32,280 via UN-Women's Training Center Campus and 19,029 through other UN platforms). UN-Women's Training Center launched a new module on UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard, in addition to the module on Implementing Gender Equality Markers. Further, UN-Women supported the capacity building of 4,000 humanitarian actors, civil society representatives and other partners on gender in humanitarian action across 24 crisis-affected countries. To facilitate continued expansion of capacity-building efforts, UN-Women rolled-out the virtual Gender in Humanitarian Action-programme with 2 cohorts in 2022 targeting UN Women personnel in crisis contexts.

The Entity has continued to support the wider UNS in preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment through its active engagement with improvement efforts across the system. As a committed participant in the CEB Taskforce on Addressing Sexual Harassment within the Organization of the UNS, UN-Women provided high quality inputs in all its working groups on advancing a victim-centered approach, promoting behavioral change, measuring data and results, and enhancing cooperation. The Entity also continued to co-lead its coordination and knowledge sharing efforts, together with OCHA. In this role, UN-Women convened two peer-to-peer learning dialogues with key stakeholders, the results of which are reflected in the publication "[Enhancing Cooperation: Peer-To-Peer Learning to Prevent and Eliminate Sexual Harassment in the UN System and Beyond](#)" that includes key messages and recommendations.

UN-Women continued to prioritize accountability across the organization by implementing all UN system-wide initiatives in that regard. The Entity asked all regional directors and country representatives to provide certification to the Executive Director that they have fulfilled their SEA, as well as SH related duties for the year 2021. This complements UN-Women's corporate certifications of the completion of the required responsibilities for the organization to the Secretary General and the Executive Board in the management letters that the Executive Director submits every year. Moreover, UN-Women continued to put in place robust safeguards that ensure the effective tackling of SEA and SH, within UN-Women as well as for its work with implementing partners. This is done through consistent usage of the UN-wide candidate screening and vetting database Clear Check, the inclusion of SEA and SH risk labels within the enterprise risk framework, and the requirement of PSEA capacity assessments, in line with the UN Protocol on PSEA with Implementing Partners, as part of the UN-Women's Partner Selection Procedure.

IV. Delivering results in the United Nations Development System

UN-Women supports country level results through a network of 6 Regional Offices, 62 Country Offices, and serves a further 43 countries through UN Reform presence, including non-resident forms of programme delivery and coordination for gender equality and women's empowerment.

A. Multi-Country Offices and Small Island Developing States

In the Pacific, the **Fiji MCO** serves 14 Pacific countries with a presence in 7 and continued to advance the operationalization of the MCO recommendations in the Pacific through increased coordination support across all 3 multi-country offices (Micronesia, Samoa and Fiji MCOs). UN-Women co-chairs with UNFPA the work on Gender Equality of the UN Pacific Strategy as well as the expanded Gender Coordination Group together with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. The Fiji MCO also contributed to enhanced coordination on gender issues in disaster response through its role as chair of Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster. The Fiji MCO recruited a Country Programme Coordinator to increase support in gender equality normative and coordination actions to the new Micronesia MCO.

The UN-Women **MCO Caribbean** covers the 22 countries and territories of the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, with staff presence to support the entire region, including Planning and Coordination Specialists, in Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada. The MCO works closely with 6 UNCTs across the with its staff engaged in key interagency bodies, groups and activities across the UNCTs and UNS including the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard Gender SWAP Scorecard, Emergency Task Team, and implementation and reporting on PSEA policies and campaigns.

B. Update on the regional review

UN-Women **Arab States Regional Office** contributed to 6 out of 8 Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs),⁶ co-convening the IBC on Gender Justice and Equality with UNFPA. Through its engagement in the two regional Peer Support Groups (PSGs) for Arab States and Africa, in 2022 UN-Women strengthened the incorporation of gender considerations in 3 CCAs (Bahrain, Lebanon, Palestine) and 6 corresponding UNSDCF (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine). UN-Women participated in CCA/UNSDCF and other UNCT processes as a non-resident member of the UNCT in Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In 2022, this included participation in the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard comprehensive assessment conducted in Saudi Arabia.

UNCTs in the Arab States have improved capacity and accountability for measuring investments in gender equality and gender mainstreaming. UN-Women rolled-out a series of tailored trainings on the Gender Equality Marker, Human Rights Marker and Sustaining Peace Marker in joint work planning, for country teams,⁷ in collaboration with RCOs, DCO and OHCHR. The GEM training in Bahrain has been recognized as a good practice for the global UNSDG report.

UN-Women in the Arab States put in place in 2019 a modality of cluster offices, with Tunisia-Libya operating as one cluster and Iraq-Yemen as another. This typology has facilitated the optimization of field presences with common priorities and/or geographic contiguity to deliver on UN-Women's mandate, aligned to the UNSDCF and normative frameworks. The Tunis-Libya cluster office based in Tunis allows UN-Women to leverage the presence of much of the UNS and humanitarian partners for Libya, as well as key stakeholders outside the country, to support GEWE inside Libya.

In January 2023, UN-Women established a new presence in Bahrain. Aligned to the UNSDCF, this is the first programme office of UN-Women in the Gulf Cooperation Council sub-region recognizing Bahrain's important role in regional and global development. UN-Women supports joint programming, gender analysis, gender and disability mainstreaming including as part of the first GTG, established in April 2023, and the UNCT Disability Task Group.

⁶ Issue-Based Coalitions act as regional task forces to facilitate improved cooperation between different UN agencies and their partners.

⁷ Bahrain and Jordan in 2022; Lebanon and Saudi Arabia in 2023.

UN-Women **Asia-Pacific Regional Office** continues to engage in the 4 IBCs in the region. UN-Women also co-chairs the IBC on *Promoting Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*, together with UNFPA and OHCHR. UN-Women co-facilitated both regional and UNCT trainings on advancing Human Rights Based Approaches and GEWE in the development of CCAs and UNSDCF, as well as the UN system-wide accountability frameworks.

Also, as part of the IBC, UN-Women led a training series on Human Rights frameworks and mechanisms with a focus on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and Special Procedures, targeted at UNCTs in Asia and the Pacific and regional entities.

On ASEAN engagement, UN-Women played a leadership role in ensuring that gender mainstreaming is at the heart of the ASEAN-UN Cooperation Framework and priorities under the current ASEAN-UN Plan of Action 2021-2025. Working closely with the UNS particularly through close coordination with UN DPPA-DPO and UN OCHA, UN-Women's engagement with ASEAN has helped to integrate and mainstream gender across all three ASEAN Community Pillars. This has led, for example, to the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action on WPS by ASEAN leaders at the ASEAN summit in November 2022 and the ASEAN Regional Framework on Protection Gender and Inclusion, which has brought for the first time the gender and social inclusion lens into peace and security, disaster management and emergencies response in ASEAN.

In Bangladesh, the UNCT is reinforcing the UNDS repositioning through accelerated joint actions to advance UN's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. With technical support from UN-Women and UNFPA, and the Human Resources Working Group, a UNCT-wide Gender Parity Strategy was developed and endorsed to start in 2023, setting targets and specific actions to improve women's representation at all contract levels to achieve gender parity. The UN in Bangladesh currently has a female representation of 35% across different contract levels. With UN-Women's support, for the first time, during Indonesia's CEDAW Reporting Cycles, the RC provided a briefing on CEDAW implementation to the CEDAW Committee before the State Parties' review process. Led by UN-Women and UNFPA, the process of developing the Confidential Report was done consultatively with UN Agencies, the GTG and CSOs. In Pakistan, joint cost sharing of the UNCT's GTG has ensured financial support and sustainability of the GTG secretariat and enhanced ownership of this mechanism and of the mandate of the GTG in GEWE in the normative and programmatic efforts and operations of the UNCT. Following the floods of 2022, the GTG steered the process of conducting a Rapid Gender Assessment and the development of sector-specific gender guidelines for the early recovery and rehabilitation phase.

UN-Women **West and Central Africa Regional Office** participates actively in 4 out of 7 regional IBCs and leads the regional GTG. In 2022, UN-Women actively accompanied DCO in prioritization exercises as a member of the PSG and provided technical advice and support to mainstreaming gender into 11 CCAs and UNSDCF, in particular in countries where UN-Women does not have a country office.⁸ Further, the Entity supported the mainstreaming of gender into programming and provided data and statistics.

In Liberia UN-Women played an active role in the development and review of the National Country Strategy for Development, supporting Ministries, Agencies and Commissions to have gender policy and units, and strengthening their multi stakeholder's coordination mechanism and capacities on GEWE. In Niger, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo, the revitalization of the GTGs has allowed the positioning of UNCT in terms of GEWE and the enlargement of partners including private partners. UN-Women Niger and other UNCT entities have recently collaborated with the government on a new joint programme promoting GEWE in the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding nexus, launched by UN-Women under the leadership of the RCO. The programme contributes to the implementation of the second-generation National Action Plan of the WPS and aims to encourage increased participation of women, energize the women's movement, and strengthen women's leadership in conflict management and peacebuilding processes.

⁸ Mauritania, The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Gabon, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Cabo Verde Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Congo.

UN-Women is leading and providing technical guidance to UNCTs in the region, to improve system accountability on gender equality. In South Sudan, UN-Women has supported the RC and UNCT to elaborate a gender parity strategy, with clear actions to improve the UN's performance. UN-Women's coordination of GTGs led to joint advocacy on gender issues, for example, with the humanitarian sector in the context of the conflict in northern Mozambique, in Burundi and in Sudan. In Ethiopia and Uganda, newly elaborated Coordination strategies lay out the vision and goal of UN-Women's coordination work in these countries which will also be used as a tool to support resource mobilization for this area of work. In Tanzania, UN-Women contributed to mainstream gender in the UNSDCF through its leadership of the Gender Equality and Human Rights Coordination Mechanism, including through the application of the Gender Equality Marker as well as the training of 75 programme staff from 16 agencies. In addition, participation in an inter-agency Secretariat on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Tanzania led to the production of a gender analysis of the UPR recommendations which fed into discussions on the operational response with the government Gender Ministries in the mainland and in Zanzibar, and with development partners.

Regarding UNCT gender accountability, 22 UNCTs were trained on the use of the UNCT-SWAP Scorecard and the Gender Equality Marker leading to further requests for UN-Women's technical guidance and assistance by UNCTs in Djibouti, Madagascar, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Comoros. The training led also to the 'Mombasa Call to Action' by participants of the 22 countries making concrete commitments. The regional office provided training on gender mainstreaming in the UNSDCFs and the Scorecard process for the GTG in Somalia, following which the UNCT is embarking on its first ever SWAP-Scorecard assessment.

The high proportion of countries where UN-Women does not have a country office in **East and Southern Africa** (11 out of 21 countries) and **West and Central Africa** (14 out of 24 countries) has required significant effort to ensure support for gender mainstreaming in CCAs and UNSDCFs and related processes and programming. In this regard, UN-Women's two Regional Offices in Africa have collaborated to build capacities for and advise on gender mainstreaming in UNSDCFs, including in the context of cross-regional training sessions delivered to more than 11 UNCTs through the regional PSG in 2022 including for UNCTs in exceptional circumstances such as Burkina Faso and South Sudan.

In **Europe and Central Asia**, under the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) and following the 2021 IBC review and management response co-led by UN-Women and UNDP Regional Offices, all IBC Terms of Reference were revised to include clear accountability lines to the RCP and ensure demand-driven and high-quality policy and technical support to the countries. UN-Women engaged in 5 out of 7 IBCs. Chaired by UN-Women and UNFPA, the regional IBC on Gender Equality has gender expertise from 15 UN entities cutting across the 17 SDGs. In 2022, it increased awareness about the gendered implications of the war in Ukraine and provided gender analysis for regional reports and successfully advocated for a stand-alone gender mechanism under the regional refugee response coordination forum. It increased regionalization of gender equality commitments by the UNS, governments and partners through the convening of a multi-stakeholder platform to advance progress on the Action Coalition on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality. It also led joint advocacy on key policies and interventions to increase women's access and rights to resources, services and opportunities and eliminate barriers, particularly for rural women and girls through collaboration with the IBC on Sustainable Food Systems and co-organized the [Third Food Systems Talk](#) within the framework of the International Day of Rural Women.

UN-Women's Regional Office for the **Americas and the Caribbean** continues to contribute to the regional stream of the UN reform, including by leading the regional GTG, co-leading the IBC on Crime and Violence and the Working Group on SDGs Data, engaging in the other IBCs and interagency working groups, participating in the RCP meetings, and having an active role as a member of the regional PSG. Led by UN-Women, the Regional GTG strengthened the capacities of 21 national GTGs to provide strategic support and advice to UNCTs in enhancing their gender mainstreaming efforts. More than 330 UN staff and government officials from Ecuador, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, and Cuba increased their knowledge on GEWE. A total of 6 capacity development trainings were held by UN-Women's Regional Office including on mainstreaming gender in the UNSDCF, the application of the UNCT Gender Marker and gender-responsive Monitoring and Evaluation. This

resulted in GEWE being integrated into several of the region's UNSDCFs, thanks also to UN-Women's active participation in the PSG and to the provision of capacity building, technical assistance and collaboration.

The coordination mandate was also strengthened and positioned in countries where UN-Women does not have physical presence.⁹ In addition to the work carried out through the Regional PSG, in these countries the Regional Office has been leveraging gender equality in the UNS through its participation in the UNCTs. As a result, UN-Women signed the new UNSDCF in Venezuela and became part of the UNCT configuration. Progress in gender equality was analyzed for Venezuela using the UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard Assessment methodology. In Cuba, capacities were strengthened to ensure that GEWE is integrated into the joint work of the UNCT, including findings of the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard and priorities of its Action Plan.

C. COVID-19 response and recovery

In 2022, UN-Women continued to support COVID-19 recovery including through gender analysis and advocacy to inform the response efforts from a gender lens. UN-Women and UNDP launched in 2022 the comprehensive assessment report "[*Government Responses to COVID-19: Lessons on Gender Equality for a World in Turmoil*](#)" based on in-depth research and the data from the COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker. The findings of the Tracker have been used in at least 22 events and policy dialogues at the global, regional and country levels, of which 7 were organized in 2022. The Tracker and its associated knowledge products have been cited in at least 130 publications, including 60 academic journal articles or books, 20 reports by other UN agencies, and 11 civil society reports.

The Advisory Committee of the COVID-19 MPTF concluded its work in March 2023. The Gender Equality Marker was acknowledged as an important feature of the Fund, capitalizing on the lessons learned from the PBF and setting an example for funding the gender equality marker in all pooled funding mechanisms. Up to 98% of joint programmes funded by the MPTF had a gender marker score of GEM 2 or GEM 3 (significant or principal contribution to GEWE, respectively).

D. Strengthening joint programmatic impact for the SDGs

UN-Women is a core agency in the Spotlight Initiative and implements 36% of the 500 million including through country and regional programming as well as the interagency trust funds that the Entity manages. In addition, UN-Women continues to strengthen joint programming impact to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and deliver on the SDGs, with 30% of the Entity's expenditure in 2022 stemming from joint programmes. UN-Women was a member of the inter-agency advisory group that supported the finalization of the updated guidance note on the new generation of UN joint programmes, launched in October 2022. In the inter-agency context, in 2022 112 out of 131 UNCTs (85%) reported having one or more Joint Programmes that include an SDG 5 focus with the total proportion of Joint Programmes with an SDG 5 or gender focus standing at 378 out of 887 reported Joint Programmes (43%).¹⁰

Administered by UN-Women, the **UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women** managed in 2022 a grants portfolio of 186 projects aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women and girls in 70 countries and territories, across five regions. Grants totaled \$87.8 million, out of which 62.4% went to women's rights organizations. The projects supported reached 47,958,452 people, including 24,408,861 women and girls; and 419,405 women and girls were empowered to exercise agency for change in their own lives. The Fund contributes to the UNS reform commitments on improved coordination as a mechanism for partnership across the UNS and beyond that brings together partners from civil society and Member States for collective action.

The **Spotlight Initiative** aims to demonstrate a "new way of working" under the UN reforms, placing the role of the RCs at the center to drive joint action towards the achievement of SDGs. Under the UN reforms, the RCs work with UN entities to identify and leverage UNS expertise and assets. The RCs in 23 country and regional Spotlight

⁹ Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Cuba.

¹⁰ This does not mean that the Joint Programmes solely focused on gender equality or contributed to SDG 5 as they usually focus on and contribute to several SDGs.

programmes (almost 70% of the programmes) selected UN-Women as Technical Coherence lead agency. UN-Women's priority has been to ensure that its contribution is catalytic to the impact that the UNS has on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG). Positive results include improved policy and programmatic interventions, through the coordination across multiple stakeholders and by supporting the RCs to leverage the expertise of UN-Women and other development partners to EVAWG.

Managed by UN-Women, in 2022 the **UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)**, which is a partnership between the UN and civil society providing direct, dedicated, and flexible financing to women's civil society organizations in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings, expanded its reach and results. Having funded over 920 local women's right and led organizations since its creation in 2016, in 2022 alone the WPHF mobilized over 43.8 million in resources to support over 490 women's rights/led organizations and their co-implementing partners from 32 countries. The WPHF's governance structure is aligned with the UN reform and combines a Funding Board that includes representation of civil society, governments, donors and 5 UN entities, with country-specific multi-stakeholder national steering committees, chaired by the RC/HC– all supported by the Global Technical Secretariat hosted by UN-Women. The WPHF is unique in that it expands the reach of UN's development assistance to the most marginalized communities for which services are often disrupted or non-existent. Almost half of the WPHF's partners received funding through the UN for the first time, and 28% were led by people who are forcibly displaced. In 2022, WPHF-supported projects directly reached 941,631 people (79.8% women and girls), indirectly benefiting over 14.3 million people at local and sub-national levels. More than 400 women peace builders from 35 countries advocated for the inclusion of gender provisions and women's needs and priorities in peace processes or in the implementation of peace agreements, benefiting over 26,000 people. Through a new funding mechanism launched in mid-2022 for Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) working in and/or from conflict and crisis settings, the WPHF also supported 83 WHRDs, including 29% between 18 and 29 years, with rapid and flexible assistance for relocation, protection, and security, and to address their mental health needs, as well as advance their advocacy efforts in the most challenging and threatening contexts around the world.

E. UN Coordination and Strategic Partnerships

The success of UN-Women's UNDS coordination mandate to enhance gender mainstreaming and gender accountability across the UNDS stems from its ability to coordinate and engage with a multiplicity of partners at all levels. UN-Women provides continuous technical support and coordination approaches to the UNS for technical coherence in gender analysis, mainstreaming and accountability, including through standardized frameworks and procedures.

At the **global level**, UN-Women continues to leverage the Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) to promote and support gender mainstreaming across the system. The Network develops tools, checklists, and knowledge products to enhance system-wide capacity on gender analysis and gender mainstreaming and identifies new and emerging areas where a gender perspective is lacking or needs to be strengthened.

Gender mainstreaming is instilled in the UN-SWAP, the UNCT-SWAP, and the Gender Equality Marker as standardized frameworks that serve **as a means to** propel progress on GEWE. These tools elevate the accountability and reporting of the UNDS for gender results, including through the systematic tracking of financial allocations to gender work which is an essential enabling condition for gender mainstreaming so that progress can be achieved and accounted for. Managed by UN-Women through three different technical Helpdesks, these system-wide instruments continue to demonstrate increased dedication to and accountability of the UNDS and UNCTs for gender equality results. In 2022, 73 UN entities reported on the UN-SWAP and 76 UNCTs reported on the UNCT-SWAP, with UN-Women's support.

At the **regional level**, UN-Women and UN regional commissions assist efforts to uphold agreed gender equality norms, working through regional coordination mechanisms and UNSDG teams such as regional GTGs, PSGs, IBCs, and RCPs. Across the regions, the Entity chairs/co-chairs dedicated interagency working groups on GEWE, which focus on promoting joint action at the regional level in support of the implementation of the SDGs and supports the work of UNCTs on gender mainstreaming. At the **country level**, UN-Women works with RCs and other UN entities

through UNCTs, leading GTGs, and actively engaging in joint results groups and joint programmes to strategically address gender-based inequalities and advance gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs.

As convener of Generation Equality, UN-Women continues to leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships to accelerate progress towards gender equality and the SDGs. Since 2021, UN-Women has more than doubled the number of commitments mobilized across the 6 Action Coalitions from 1,000 to over 2,700 and reporting on these commitments has demonstrated that Generation Equality is catalyzing and energizing partnerships. Strong efforts have been advanced to ensure accountable progress that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The global indicator framework for monitoring the targets of the Action Coalitions was finalized in March 2022 via a global consultation and at least 33% (21 out of 64) of the indicators being used are SDG indicators. UN entities are represented among [Generation Equality Action Coalition](#) Leaders (11), Commitment Makers (13) and Compact Board Members/Signatories (10), with over 100 commitments.

In addition, UN-Women has convened the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth and seven UN Agencies to address meaningful engagement, safeguarding, and intergovernmental participation of young people. Furthermore, UNFPA and ITU are members of the Generation Equality Multi-Stakeholder Leadership Group, which supports UN-Women in driving forward the Generation Equality agenda.

F. Funding Compact and Structured Dialogue on Financing

Throughout 2022, UN-Women engaged in several interagency working groups aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices in partnerships, for instance the Structured Dialogue on Financing Working Group (including UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women), which has agreed on a harmonized official structured dialogue approach that includes Funding Compact reporting. In addition, UN-Women is engaged in a Donor Recognition and Visibility Working Group with the same agencies as the latter to strategize on common approaches for donor visibility and recognition of funding.

UN-Women continued its efforts to address the need for sufficient core resources. In 2022, the Entity received a total of USD 545.4 million in contributions. Regular resources declined by 7.1% from USD 165.1 million in 2021 to USD 153.3 million in 2022. Other resources grew by 0.4% from USD 381.2 million in 2021 to USD 382.7 million in 2022, surpassing the integrated budget projections for the fourth year in a row. The ratio of regular to other resources was 28.1% while regular resources from Member States donors represented a 36% share of all contributions from Member States donors, in line with the Funding Compact.

UN-Women, with UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, conducts structured dialogues within the framework of system-wide funding and collaboration. In 2022, a joint interagency structured funding dialogue on "Prioritizing Development Financing Amidst Multiple Crises" took place and official structured dialogue reporting was harmonized, including the approach to Funding Compact reporting. UN-Women continued to meet all assessable Funding Compact indicator targets across the eight commitments that required entity-specific reporting.

G. System-wide reporting

UN-Women continues to produce the "[Annual Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot Report](#)". In collaboration with all the UNDS custodian agencies, the report presents the latest evidence on gender equality across all 17 goals and emphasizes the interlinkages among the goals, the pivotal force gender equality plays in driving progress across the SDGs, and women and girls' central role in leading the way forward. For the first time, the 2022 edition included projections on the timeframe needed to achieve gender equality. The data and insights are facilitated by the strong inter-agency collaboration with partner agencies including ILO, IPU, FAO, UNHCR and WIPO. UN-Women supports members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators with SDG global monitoring, including coordinating inter-agency inputs on Goal 5 for the annual SDG Report.

UN-Women, through its [Women Count](#) gender data programme, continued to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to inform decisive action on gender data and gender mainstreaming. The Entity contributed to the Inter-agency and Expert Groups on Gender Statistics and SDG Indicators, the Committee of the Chief Statisticians of the UNS, the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, and the UN Geospatial Network – all of which are

mandated by the UN Statistical Commission to increase coordination in international statistical activities. UN-Women's participation and contribution to the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, as co-chair with the World Bank, was critical to positioning gender statistics as one of the group's core areas of work.

UN-Women has been collaborating closely with DCO in the development of a menu of indicators for UNCTs to report on the UN's support to member states on the SDGs and ensure that gender equality is well positioned. The Entity has conducted a mapping of UNSDG indicators and indicators from its Strategic Plan to ensure alignment.

Together with key UN partners, UN-Women has worked to harmonize methodologies and approaches to planning, monitoring and reporting by supporting the development of and beginning to uptake the UNSDG Output Indicator Framework - launched by DCO in late 2022 - in planning documents. This is already helping to focus inter-agency efforts and harness comparative advantages, capturing the joint work of UN entities to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The Framework represents and unlocks key new common methodologies for planning and reporting on results, clarifying agency-specific and joint contributions in a harmonized manner.

H. System-wide evaluation

UN-Women has increased its engagement in system-wide evaluations and joint evaluations to promote coherence and inform collaborative programming and initiatives. In 2022, the Entity participated in 33 joint evaluations, 7 of which were completed under the leadership or co-management of UN-Women, accounting for 17% of the total UN-Women evaluations. At the global level, UN-Women initiated, together with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, an inter-agency synthesis of UNS evaluations related to SDG 5 to contribute to the wider body of knowledge on progress towards SDG 5. The Entity participated in the evaluation advisory group of the system-wide evaluation of the UNDS response to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. It also continued to provide technical support for UNSDCF evaluations implemented in various regions and supported the UN-SWAP evaluation performance indicator by providing technical guidance to all reporting entities, preparing an annual report documenting progress, and highlighting best practices for improving gender mainstreaming in evaluations.

The recent [evaluation of the Joint SDG Fund](#) (2019-2022) acknowledges the significant contribution made by UN-Women towards enhancing the quality of proposals submitted for funding and promoting gender-responsiveness in the Fund. According to the evaluation, programmes have greatly benefited from UN-Women's active collaboration. UN-Women has provided extensive support to the Fund's Call for Proposals and technical assistance to effectively mainstream a gender perspective in proposals submitted for funding. In 2021, UN-Women also contributed to updating the Fund's Gender Matrix and tested it further in the Call for Proposals for Small Island Developing States in 2021-2022, which highlighted the need for further adjustments. Therefore, UN-Women recommends that the Joint SDG Fund establishes a target for funding proposals that contribute to gender equality as a primary objective (GEM 3). This is in line with the Secretary-General's request to ensure the implementation of a minimum financial target of 15% to GEM 3 proposals in pooled funding mechanisms.

I. Our Common Agenda and Leaving No One Behind

UN-Women leads or co-leads on 11 Our Common Agenda (OCA) workstreams central to its mandate. The Entity will utilize its coordination role in existing mechanisms, such as the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, to accelerate work on gender equality. One such example is the working group on temporary special measures that has supported the completion of the [UN Gender Quota Portal](#), the UN's first global information hub on legislated gender quotas, aimed to assist the efforts of the UN to advocate for and strengthen the implementation of gender quotas at country level.

UN-Women's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 is centrally anchored in the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) approach. This is reflected, inter alia, in the Strategic Plan's approach to participation and empowerment, which pursues an intersectional lens, and in the prioritization of LNOB disaggregated data.

As a cosponsor of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), in 2022 UN-Women directly supported 4,700 women living with HIV who, as a result, have increased their leadership capacities and accessed decision-making spaces in the HIV response. UN-Women built leadership skills of young women across 15 countries of sub-

Saharan Africa and continued influencing health policy and programming for women's, children's and adolescents' health as part of the H6 Partnership together with UNFPA, UNICEF and other partners. With UN-Women's support, over 10,000 women and girls affected by humanitarian emergencies in Ethiopia and Uganda were empowered to demand discrimination-free access to services on sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health.

UN-Women's efforts in humanitarian action are centered around the empowerment of crisis-affected women and girls. **UN-Women's membership since October 2022 in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)** – the highest-level humanitarian coordination and decision-making body – comes with a remit to hold the humanitarian system accountable to crisis-affected women and girls. The Entity also served as the co-chair of the IASC's Gender Reference Group on whose behalf it led the development of the '[Gender Accountability Framework Report](#)'. This is the only monitoring mechanism in place that tracks the extent to which humanitarian coordination mechanisms at the global level and across crisis settings implement gender commitments. As members of Humanitarian Country Teams and leads of 'Gender in Humanitarian Action' Working Groups in crisis-affected countries, UN-Women leveraged its coordination mandate and enabled the UN-led humanitarian response to be better informed by robust gender analysis and expertise. In 2022, across 40 crisis contexts, UN-Women supported over 1330 local and national women's organizations to participate in humanitarian and refugee coordination and response efforts. Over 800,000 crisis-affected women, men, girls, and boys benefitted from UN-Women's humanitarian services.

UN-Women enhanced and led inter-agency coordination and collaboration to address the situation of women and girls with disabilities, providing leadership and management support to the UN Working Group on Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion. UN-Women's work with the 'UN Partnership on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD)' continues to be strengthened both as a member of its Policy Board and the Management Committee. During 2021-2022, over 60 UN-Women offices engaged with initiatives supporting disability inclusion. UN-Women co-leads 9 country level joint programmes, 3 cross regional and global programmes with other relevant UN entities. The UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women supported projects that reached at least 13,737 women and girls living with disabilities.

Towards advancing disability inclusion within and across different regions UN-Women Disability Inclusion Facility and Helpdesk collaborated closely with regional initiatives. For example, in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, a Roadmap for Ending Violence Against Women and Disability Inclusion was developed and partnership opportunities between UN agencies and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities working on gender equality was facilitated through two regional dialogues related to disability inclusion.

V. Conclusion

This information note demonstrates how UN-Women continues to contribute to the implementation of the UNDS repositioning and reforms to make progress towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, at the country, regional and global levels. The Entity remains aligned with the MAF, including making significant contributions to supporting the UNDS in PSEA and SH. In addition, UN-Women continues to fulfill its financial obligations to fund the RC system, facilitate inter-agency mobility, and harmonize business practices, resulting in efficiency gains.

UN-Women continues to inform and support system-wide gender analysis and gender mainstreaming in UNDS strategic planning at the country level, aligning its own planning to national priorities and UNSDCF's. It remains a proactive member of the UNSDG and leads capacity-building initiatives and knowledge management worldwide to mainstream gender equality across the UNDS work and enhance gender accountability. This includes its leadership role in the implementation of the Secretary-General's system-wide Strategy on Gender Parity and the management of three system-wide gender accountability frameworks (UN-SWAP, UNCT-SWAP and UNCT-GEM). The Entity contributes strongly to joint programming and the implementation of flagship global funds and programmes such as the UNTF, the WPHF, and the Spotlight initiative that benefit the most marginalized women and girls from across the world. It continues to lead or contribute to system-wide reporting, including through UN-INFO, and to system-wide evaluation. As the note illustrates with examples from different regions and countries,

UN-Women continues to ensure coherence and coordination through regional mechanisms and UNSDG teams such as regional/country GTGs, PSGs, IBCs, and RCPs.

Going forward, efforts will focus on strengthening not only the coverage of UNDS gender accountability but also its quality by strengthening the link between the accountability frameworks indicators and capacity building identified needs in the UNS. Enhancing system-wide knowledge about the linkages between gender analysis and the prioritization of *sine-qua-non* conditions, such as the allocation of gender expertise and funding, will also be crucial to ensure that gender mainstreaming can fulfill its potential as a transformative approach towards achieving women's empowerment and gender equality as part of UNDS repositioning efforts.