

Date: 3 March 2014

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-eighth session

10 – 21 March 2014

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017: Programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women

Note by the Secretary-General

The present note by the Secretary-General contains the biennial programme plan of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 for Programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women. The Commission is invited to review the plan and provide its comments thereon. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-fourth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, when it will consider the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017.

* E/CN.6/2014/1.

Programme 14**Gender equality and empowerment of women****Overall orientation**

14.1 The pursuit of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment is a pre-requisite and driver for human rights, development and peace. In this regard, the direction of the programme is provided by General Assembly resolution 64/289 establishing UN-Women as a composite entity. The proposed strategic framework for 2016-2017 is aligned with the strategic plan of UN-Women for 2014 to 2017 (UNW/2013/6), endorsed by the UN-Women Executive Board in September 2013.

14.2 Also in resolution 64/289, the General Assembly set out a framework for the work of the programme drawing on the Charter of the United Nations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including its 12 critical areas of concern, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and applicable United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is the principal international human rights treaty relating to the practical realization of equality between women and men. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women provide guidance for the normative support functions; the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board provide guidance for the operational activities. Intergovernmental resolutions and decisions set the women and peace and security agenda for UN Women and the United Nations system.

14.3 The overall orientation of the programme is to achieve substantive equality for women and girls. The programme contributes to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, recognizing that gender equality is pivotal to the achievement of sustainable development in all its dimensions.

14.4 During 2016-2017, UN-Women will continue to focus in the following key areas: (a) increasing women's leadership and participation in all areas that affect their lives, including in political and economic areas; (b) increasing women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded, particularly women living in poverty; (c) preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services; (d) increasing women's leadership in peace, security and humanitarian response; (e) strengthening the responsiveness of plans and budgets in the area of gender equality at all levels; and (f) supporting the development of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment.

14.5 The programme will create strategic partnerships which will lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the UN system. It will carry out its work in coordination with other UN entities in order to avoid duplication of work. It will provide overall leadership and will strengthen mechanisms such as thematic inter-agency bodies at the global, regional and national levels, and will continue to promote and enhance accountability for gender equality in the UN system, including by assisting UN entities with UN-SWAP implementation.

14.6 The programme of work of UN-Women is driven by the principle of universality. The achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment is central to UN-Women's mandate and is addressed across all its priority areas of work.

14.7 The strategy for implementing the programme in the biennium 2016-2017 is centred on bringing together the normative support, coordination and operational support to ensure an even greater impact from United Nations support in these areas. The fulfilment of the overall orientation will result from expanding support provided to Member States, upon their request; strengthening coherence between the normative and operational work; and leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the UN system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women. Support for gender mainstreaming across the UN system is an integral part of the programme's strategy.

Subprogramme 1

Intergovernmental support, coordination and strategic partnerships

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including women's full enjoyment of their human rights

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of intergovernmental bodies, especially the Commission on the Status of Women, for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the integration of gender perspectives in their spheres of activity	(a) (i) Increased number of activities aimed at supporting the participation of Member States, upon their request, in the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies, with particular emphasis on the Commission on the Status of Women (ii) Percentage of required documents submitted by UN-Women on time for consideration by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women, in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations on the issuance of documentation
(b) Enhanced support of UN-Women for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women	(b) (i) Increased number of activities of UN-Women aimed at supporting the participation of non-governmental organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council to the Commission on the Status of Women
(c) Enhanced capacity of the United Nations system entities to mainstream gender perspectives and to undertake targeted measures to empower women in policies and programmes of the United Nations system in a coherent way	(c) (i) Number of initiatives of United Nations entities supported by UN-Women that incorporate gender perspectives in their policies, programmes, and projects (ii) Number of human resources policy

	measures advocated and/or assisted by UN-Women in United Nations system entities that incorporate gender perspectives in their implementation
(d) Enhanced capacity to build partnerships for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women	(d) (i) Number of activities of UN-Women aimed at different stakeholders contributing to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (ii) Amount of resources mobilized as voluntary contributions to UN-Women

Strategy

14.8 The Intergovernmental Support, Coordination and Strategic Partnerships Bureau is responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

- (a) Promoting actions and providing assistance to Member States, upon their request, for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review outcomes, GA and other UN instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality, as well as obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- (b) Providing substantive support to intergovernmental processes, in particular the Commission on the Status of Women, by facilitating discussion on key gender equality issues by Governments and other stakeholders,;
- (c) Supporting intergovernmental processes to increase the reflection of gender perspectives in sectoral areas, by providing innovative proposals;
- (d) Increasing awareness and understanding of gender equality and the empowerment of women through education and information dissemination as well as outreach using different channels such as websites, social media and print products;
- (e) Encouraging women's groups and other non-governmental organisations specializing in gender equality to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;
- (f) Leading and supporting system-wide and inter-agency collaboration on gender equality through promotion of joint action; collaboration in UN country teams and their gender theme groups; and accountability frameworks;
- (g) Supporting synergies and cooperation among countries, as well as the mechanisms established for the promotion of gender equality, at the regional and sub-regional levels;

- (h) Supporting the improvement of the status of women and gender balance within the UN system through advocacy and monitoring of progress as well as training opportunities for UN officials;
- (i) Building and strengthening strategic partnerships with a broad range of stakeholders to achieve a robust resource base.

Subprogramme 2

Policy and programme activities

Objective of the Organization: To enhance efforts in the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the achievement of gender equality in, inter alia, the fields of development, human rights and peace and security, including by leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work in those areas

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
---	---------------------------

(a) Enhanced policy support for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women

(a) Increased number of policies and actions taken and/or supported by UN-Women, upon the request of Member States, at the national and regional levels to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women

(b) Enhanced capacity of UN-Women to effectively support, upon the request of Member States, national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations in order to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to protect women's human rights.

(b) (i) Number of UN-Women activities related to strengthening capacity development provided, upon the request of Member States, to national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations

(c) Increased capacity to lead and coordinate the United Nations system at the country level in supporting Member States upon their request in the implementation of commitments to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, empower women and achieve gender equality

(c) (i) Number of United Nations coordination mechanisms on gender equality led or co-led by UN-Women at the national level

(ii) Number of United Nations development frameworks and programmes at the country level formulated and implemented with the participation and/or assistance of UN-Women

(iii) Number of United Nations country teams that are, with the support of UN-Women, applying performance indicators on gender equality in the common country assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks

Strategy

14.9 The Policy and Programme Bureau is responsible for the sub-programme. The strategy will include:

- (a) Serving as a global knowledge centre on gender equality and empowerment of women, through research, analysis and evaluation of trends, including on new and emerging issues;
- (b) Providing advice and support to Member States, as requested, including through field offices, to enhance capacity to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate their gender equality policies;
- (c) Providing advocacy support, training and capacity development to Member States, as requested, to advance implementation of commitments on gender equality and empowerment of women in line with their national priorities;
- (d) Providing leadership, expertise and coordination support to United Nations country and regional teams and their gender theme groups, including by leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women.