

Expert Group Meeting on  
'Social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality'  
Convened by UN-Women  
Glen Cove, New York  
13-15 September 2018

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

## I. Background and objectives

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work (2017-2019), the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2019 will consider “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls” as its priority theme. To take stock of current research and assist the Commission in its deliberations, UN-Women will convene an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on the priority theme, to be held at Glen Cove, Long Island, United States, on 13-15 September 2018.

One year before the 25-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and three years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the EGM provides an important opportunity to take stock of the extent to which social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure investments currently contribute to the achievement of gender equality and sustainable development; identify persistent gaps and emerging challenges; and develop forward-looking recommendations.

Social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure are at the heart of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Without scaling up investments in this area, virtually all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals—be they social, economic, environmental or political—will remain out of reach. From eradicating poverty (SDG 1) and ending hunger (SDG 2) to achieving health and quality education wellbeing (SDG 3 and SDG 4); from decent work and inclusive growth (SDG 8) to reducing inequalities within and between countries (SDG 10); from promoting sustainable cities (SDG 11) to preventing conflict and sustaining peace (SDG 16); from providing clean water, sanitation and energy for all (SDG 6 and 7) to combating climate change and strengthening resilience to disasters (SDG 13)—social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure play a critical role in “transforming our world”. As such, their provision must also be geared to changing unequal gender relations to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5).

Taking into account this transformative potential, the EGM will, inter alia:

- Explore the synergies between social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure for achieving gender equality with attention to women’s productive and reproductive roles
- Discuss contextual factors that shape the need for and affect the design and delivery of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure with attention to gender-specific constraints (e.g. both time and income), barriers (e.g. to asset ownership and labour markets) and risks (e.g. violence and discrimination)
- Examine specific features in the design and implementation of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure that can support or hamper the realization of women’s human rights
- Identify principles for gender-responsive design, financing and implementation that cut across policy areas (social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure) and sectors (education, health, child and elder care, transport, energy, water and sanitation, etc.)
- Develop action-oriented recommendations that accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and support the gender-responsive implementation of global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1).

The EGM builds on the priority themes of the preceding sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, including CSW 61 on “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work” and CSW 62 on “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural

women and girls”. It will pay particular attention to multiple and intersecting inequalities that can obstruct women’s and girls’ access to social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure and constrain their ability to benefit from related investments. Extending social protection to women in informal employment—in both rural and urban areas—and tailoring public services and infrastructure to their needs will be one of the focus areas.

## II. Global normative and policy frameworks

The right to social security has been enshrined in several human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in 1948. The **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, adopted by the General Assembly in 1966, further specified a set of rights that State Parties must respect, protect and fulfill without discrimination on the basis of sex, including: the right to social security (article 9), the right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing (article 11), the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (article 12) and the right to education (article 13). In 2010, the General Assembly also recognized that safe and clean drinking water and sanitation was a human right ‘essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights’.<sup>1</sup> Social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure are critical for the realization of these and other rights. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) has repeatedly clarified, for example, that the realization of economic and social rights depends on the availability, accessibility, affordability and quality of related services as well as on the adequacy of social protection benefits, such as pensions, family allowances or unemployment benefits.

The right to social security is also enshrined in UN legal instruments setting out the rights of specific population groups, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (1990), and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006). **CEDAW** requires States Parties to eliminate discrimination against women to ensure their equal enjoyment of the ‘right to social security, particularly in cases of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age and other incapacity to work, as well as the right to paid leave’ (article 11, e).

The **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** (1995) recognizes the importance of social protection, public services and infrastructure for poverty eradication and progress for women and girls more broadly. Under the critical area of concern A (women and poverty), Member States committed to creating ‘social security systems wherever they do not exist, or review them with a view to placing individual women and men on an equal footing, at every stage of their lives’. The critical role of infrastructure was recognized under areas F (women and the economy) and K (women and the environment) where Member States were called upon to ‘provide public infrastructure to ensure equal market access for women and men entrepreneurs’ and to ‘support the development of women’s equal access to housing infrastructure, safe water, and sustainable and affordable energy technologies, such as wind, solar, biomass and other renewable sources’.

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly. 2010. Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly: The Human Right to Water and Sanitation. A/RES/64/292

These and other issues have also been discussed by the **Commission on the Status of Women** under different priority themes over the past years. The Agreed Conclusions of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session (2009), for example, established a clear link between unpaid care work and the areas considered under this priority theme by calling for the development of adequate social protection schemes; investments in quality, accessible and affordable public services; and enhanced access to infrastructure to reduce the burden of care. In recent years, the Commission has reiterated the need to recognize, reduce and redistribute the unequal share of unpaid care and domestic work on women, among others, through ‘the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport and information and communications technology, as well as accessible, affordable and quality childcare and care facilities’ (61<sup>st</sup> session; z). The link to women’s productive activities and advancement in paid employment was also established, stressing the need for ‘gender-responsive rural development strategies and urban planning and infrastructure, including sustainable, safe, accessible and affordable public transportation systems, street lighting, and separate and adequate sanitation facilities, so as to facilitate women’s access to places, products, services and economic opportunities’ (61<sup>st</sup> session; s). At its 62<sup>nd</sup> session the Commission reiterated the need for investments in gender-responsive social protection, public services, infrastructure and technology with a particular focus on rural women and girls.

The **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** affirms the crucial importance of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as both a goal in its own right and a key ingredient of success across the Agenda as a whole. Social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure are integral elements of the 2030 Agenda and critical for achieving gender equality and sustainable development across all 17 Goals (see above). SDG 5 explicitly acknowledges the importance of ‘public services, infrastructure and social protection policies’ under Target 5.4 on unpaid care and domestic work; SDG 1 underlines the urgency of building social protection systems and measures for all; SDG 9 commits to the development of quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all; and SDG 10 calls for fiscal, wage and social protection policies to progressively achieve greater equality.

### III. Critical issues

Making social protection, public services and infrastructure investments gender-responsive requires that the underlying causes of women’s vulnerability and exclusion are comprehensively assessed and addressed.<sup>2</sup> In doing so, close attention must be paid to specific risks over the life course and to groups who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as young women and adolescent girls, older women, migrant women, women with disabilities, indigenous women and women with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, among others. While trends and challenges in each of the three areas (social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure) will be discussed in their own right, **one of the key starting points of the EGM will be that the three are highly complementary and need to work in tandem for greatest impact** and to effectively address the multiple dimensions of gender inequality and provide women and girls with sustainable routes out of poverty.

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<sup>2</sup> Sepulveda, M.C. and C. Nyst. 2012. *The Human Rights Approach to Social Protection*. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Helsinki, p. 34; Holmes, R. and N. Jones. 2010. *How to design and implement gender-sensitive social protection programmes*. ODI, London.

## 1. Women's equal right to social protection remains unfilled

Social protection, or social security, is a human right and is defined as the set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion throughout the life cycle.<sup>3</sup> In the current context of rising economic insecurity, multiple and intersecting inequalities and changing demographic and household structures, the importance of social protection for all has been recognized by a wide range of stakeholders. Universal social protection systems have the potential to contribute to the achievement of a range of goals in the 2030 Agenda—from eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities to strengthening food security, from enhancing access to education, health and decent work to building resilience in the face of disasters. Well-designed social protection systems can support the accelerated realization of gender equality by narrowing gender gaps in poverty; enhancing women's access to personal income; and providing a lifeline for poor women, especially single mothers.<sup>4</sup>

However, while social protection coverage has increased during the last decade, the world is still a long way from achieving comprehensive coverage for all. Globally, only 29 per cent of the population are covered by comprehensive social security systems that include a full range of protections across the life course.<sup>5</sup> In most countries, social protection systems continue to privilege those engaged in uninterrupted, full-time and formal employment (with eligibility for benefits or access to services contingent on prior contributions to social insurance). This conspires against women's equal access to social protection, given that they are more likely to hold informal, part-time and non-standard jobs and tend to interrupt their employment more frequently than men to take care of dependents.<sup>6</sup>

Where sex-disaggregated data is available, it often shows that women are overrepresented among those who remain excluded from social protection. For many women, a life time of labor market disadvantage often translates into poor pension coverage, alongside a lack of savings and assets which could protect them against poverty in old age. In the European Union, for example, older women are 37 per cent more likely than men to live in poverty. In most countries, women are less likely than men to receive a pension in old age and where they do, their benefit levels are usually lower.<sup>7</sup> Women also remain poorly-covered for gender-specific life course risks. Globally, for example, only 41 per cent of mothers with new-borns receive a maternity benefit, with women in informal employment being particularly affected.<sup>8</sup>

Even where women have become key beneficiaries of new social protection programmes, such as conditional cash transfers, their implications for gender equality and women's empowerment have been far from clear-cut.<sup>9</sup> Much depends on how specific social protection schemes are designed. Targeting mechanisms that are commonly used to determine eligibility for social assistance—such as child-related

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<sup>3</sup> ILO. 2017. *World Social Protection Report 2017-2019*. ILO, Geneva. UN CESCR (United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). 2008. General Comment No. 19 on the Right to Social Security: Art. 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2008). E/C.12/GC/19.

<sup>4</sup> UN Women. 2015 *Progress of the World's Women: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*. UN Women: New York;

<sup>5</sup> ILO. 2017. *World Social Protection Report 2017-2019*. Geneva. UN CESCR (United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

<sup>6</sup> Razavi, S. 2011. "Engendering Social Security and Protection: Challenges for Making Social Security and Protection Gender Equitable." *Dialogue on Globalization*. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin.

<sup>7</sup> UN Women. 2015 *Progress of the World's Women: Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights*. New York.

<sup>8</sup> ILO 2017, op. cit.

<sup>9</sup> For overviews see Fultz, E., and J. Francis. 2013. "Cash Transfer Programmes, Poverty Reduction and Empowerment of Women: A Comparative Analysis – Experiences from Brazil, Chile, India, Mexico and South Africa." GED Working Paper 4/2013. ILO, Geneva; Zanker et al 2017. "The impact of cash transfers on women and girls: A summary of the evidence." ODI, London.

cash transfers or social pensions—have been shown to lead to significant exclusion errors<sup>10</sup>, trigger stigma and social tensions<sup>11</sup> and/or inadvertently discriminate against women.<sup>12</sup> Conditionalities that are commonplace in existing cash transfer schemes have been critically assessed from both a gender<sup>13</sup> and human rights<sup>14</sup> perspective; and there is evidence on their negative impact on the rights of persons with disabilities, especially where non-compliance is enforced by sanctions.<sup>15</sup> Gender biases may also be introduced implicitly, for example in pension reforms that tie benefits more closely to contributory histories and capacities in a context where women’s lifetime earnings remain much below men’s.<sup>16</sup> Similarly, the list of “essential health benefits” included in universal health coverage (UHC) reforms has sometimes excluded core sexual and reproductive health services, such as family planning, counselling, contraceptives and abortion services where legal.<sup>17</sup>

The expert group will discuss these and other aspects of social protection design and implementation with a view to elaborate concrete recommendations for making social protection systems more gender-responsive.

## **2. Public services and investments in sustainable infrastructure are essential for reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work—a key driver of women’s income insecurity**

More importantly, and in line with the focus of the priority theme, social protection—in the form of cash transfers and financial health coverage—alone is insufficient to address inequality and advance women’s economic and social rights. While the extension of social protection benefits to women can provide important relief in the face of risks and contingencies, it does not necessarily address the gender inequalities that lie at the root of women’s income insecurity, including their disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work and other barriers that constrain their equal access to labour markets and sustainable livelihoods.

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<sup>10</sup> Kidd, S., B. Gelders and D. Bailey-Athias. 2017. “An assessment of the effectiveness of the proxy means test poverty targeting mechanism.” ESS Working Paper No. 56, ILO, Geneva.

<sup>11</sup> MacAuslin, I. and N. Riemenschneider. 2011. “Richer but resented: What do cash transfers do to social relations and does it matter?” Paper presented at the International Conference: “Social Protection for Social Justice” Institute of Development Studies, UK, 13–15 April 2011; Molyneux, M., Jones, W. N., & Samuels, F. 2016. “Can Cash Transfer Programmes Have ‘Transformative’ Effects?” *The Journal of Development Studies*, 52(8), 1087-1098; Slater, R. and J. Farrington. 2009. “Cash transfers: targeting.” Project Briefing No. 27, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London.

<sup>12</sup> UN Women 2017. “Making Social Protection Gender-Responsive: Lessons from UN Women’s Work in the Eastern Caribbean.” Policy Brief No. 7, UN Women, New York.

<sup>13</sup> See, for example, Bradshaw, S. 2008. “From Structural Adjustment to Social Adjustment: A Gendered Analysis of Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes in Mexico and Nicaragua.” *Global Social Policy* 8 (2), 188-207; Molyneux, M. 2007. “Change and Continuity in Social Protection in Latin America - Mothers at the Service of the State?” Gender and Development Programme Paper No. 1, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva; Tabbush, C. 2009. “Gender, citizenship and New Approaches to Poverty Relief: Conditional cash Transfer Programmes in Argentina.” In Razavi, S. (Ed.) *The Gendered Impact of Liberalization: Towards ‘Embedded Liberalism’?* Routledge/UNRISD, New York, 290-326.

<sup>14</sup> Sepulveda, M.C. and C. Nyst. 2012. *The Human Rights Approach to Social Protection*. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Helsinki.

<sup>15</sup> Geiger, B. B. 2017. “Benefits conditionality for disabled people: stylised facts from a review of international evidence and practice.” *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*, 25(2), 107-128.

<sup>16</sup> Arza, C. 2015. “The Gender Dimensions of Pension Systems.” UN Women Discussion Paper No. 1. UN Women, New York; European Commission. 2015. *Men, Women and Pensions*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union; UN Women 2015. “Protecting Women’s Income Security in Old Age: Towards Gender-Responsive Pension Systems.” Policy Brief No. 3, UN Women, New York.

<sup>17</sup> Ravindran, T.S. 2012. “Universal Access: Making Health Systems Work for Women.” *BMC Public Health*, 12(1): S4.

Public services and investments in sustainable infrastructure are essential for reducing and redistributing unpaid care work, and for supporting livelihoods including by facilitating women's access to income through labour markets. Affordable child and elderly care services, for example, can enable women to strengthen and maintain their link to paid employment, which remains the main source of income for most working-age adults and their families. The availability of childcare services as well as safe sanitation facilities is also critical for women to be able to take advantage of key social protection initiatives, such as public works programmes, on an equal basis with men.<sup>18</sup> Extending electricity, transport, water and sanitation to rural and marginalized urban areas, in turn, is indispensable to free up time that women and girls spend on collecting and processing water, fuel and firewood, which can compromise the effective use they can make of educational and employment opportunities. Similarly, investments in safe and reliable transport is critical for women's mobility and can support their access to public services (such as educational and health facilities), but can also help them access markets and economic opportunities.

The expert group will discuss and elaborate the interconnections between social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure with a view to elaborating concrete recommendations on how these three areas can be better linked to create synergies for gender equality and women's empowerment.

### **3. Gender-responsiveness is a key feature of the quality of public services; poor quality can be an important access barrier for women and lead to their rights and needs being side-lined**

Service quality has specific gender dimensions. These are apparent both in the physical infrastructure—such as the availability of safe sanitation facilities in schools and public spaces—and in the interaction with service providers. In the area of health services, for example, discriminatory practices and violations of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls—to physical integrity, privacy, confidentiality and informed consent—have been widely documented, from denial of services to coerced medical procedures, such as forced sterilizations, and obstetric violence (i.e. bullying and coercion of pregnant women during child birth).<sup>19</sup> Similarly, without proper training, clear screening protocols and referral mechanisms, health personnel are often unable to identify and adequately support victims of domestic violence; and where social norms condone violence against women they may fail to respond or blame victims even in the face of obvious signs.<sup>20</sup>

Transport is another area where investments and planning often remain oblivious to the diversity of user needs.<sup>21</sup> Focused on connecting peripheries to the center during peak hours, public transport systems often inadvertently cater to commuting patterns that tend to be more common among men. Women, meanwhile, are more likely to engage in multi-purpose trips within peripheral neighborhoods where they combine income earning with domestic tasks, including dropping children off at school or household provisioning. Isolated or low-lit transport stops, inaccessible platforms and overcrowded

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<sup>18</sup> Holmes, R. and N. Jones. 2010. *Rethinking social protection using a gender lens*. Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London; 2011; Razavi, S. "Engendering Social Security and Protection: Challenges for Making Social Security and Protection Gender Equitable." *Dialogue on Globalization*. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin.

<sup>19</sup> See, for example, Ewig, C. 2010. *Second-Wave Neoliberalism: Gender, Race, and Health Sector Reform in Peru*. University Park: Penn State University Press; Sadler, M. et al. 2016. "Moving beyond disrespect and abuse: addressing the structural dimensions of obstetric violence." *Reproductive Health Matters*, 24(47), 47-55.

<sup>20</sup> UN Women 2015, op.cit.

<sup>21</sup> Chant, Sylvia. 2013. "Cities through a "gender lens"" *Environment and Urbanization* 25 (1), 9-29; Levy, C. 2013. "Travel choice reframed: "deep distribution" and gender in urban transport." *Environment and Urbanization* 25(1): 47-63.

carriages further complicate these tasks, risk exposing women and girls to harassment and assault and foster fear of using the city.

The expert group will help identify institutional biases in public service delivery with a view to providing recommendations on how they can be addressed across different sectors.

#### **4. Greater evidence on how to harness investments in sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and women's empowerment is needed**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscores the interconnectedness and indivisibility of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The links between gender equality and infrastructure have been relatively well documented in terms of their contribution to *social* sustainability. For example, it is well known that access to safe water and sanitation is paramount for the survival and health of both mother and child during labour and childbirth; that the reliance on unclean fuels for heating, cooking and other household activities takes a disproportionate toll on the health of women and children who spend more time in the home; that the absence of safe sanitation, including menstrual hygiene management, can limit girls' access to education and compromise their learning outcomes; and that the lack of water, sanitation, hygiene and electricity in health care facilities can compromise women's health and survival during childbirth.<sup>22</sup>

The gender equality dimensions of technology and infrastructure for *environmental* sustainability, in turn, remain relatively under-explored. What are the gender-specific implications of ongoing transitions to renewable energy, for example? How can investments in this area be harnessed to create synergies between environmental sustainability and gender equality and respond to the energy demands of women? What kind of investments are needed to make the transport sector both more environmentally sustainable and more gender-responsive?

The expert group will bring light to these and other questions and develop related recommendations, including for better synergies among different areas.

#### **5. Who pays and who delivers? Resource mobilization and the role of the private sector in social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure**

How can investments in gender-responsive social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure be financed and sustained in the face of fiscal pressures? The viability of different resource mobilization strategies and instruments varies across countries and contexts. While higher-income countries may be able to attract significant amounts of private investment, lower-income countries will rely more heavily on official development assistance (ODA), international borrowing or remittances. In virtually all countries, however, there is scope for increasing revenue from both domestic and external sources.<sup>23</sup> Increasing tax revenues and doing so in progressive and gender-equitable ways is critical.<sup>24</sup> In the context of debates on resource mobilization, especially in the context of fiscal consolidation (or austerity), there have been hopes of harnessing private finance, particularly

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<sup>22</sup> WHO and Unicef. 2015. Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities: Status in low- and middle-income countries and way forward. Geneva.

<sup>23</sup> Ortiz, I., M. Cummins and K. Karunanethy. 2017. "Fiscal Space for Social Protection and the SDGs: Options to Expand Social Investments in 187 Countries." Extension of Social Security Working Paper E048. International Labour Organization, United Nations Children's Fund and UN Women. Geneva.

<sup>24</sup> UN Human Rights Council. 2014. "Report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Ms. Maria Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, on taxation and human rights." A/HRC/26/28; Lahey, K. 2018. "Gender and Taxation in Developing Countries: Issues and Policy Recommendations." Discussion Paper. UN Women, New York,

for infrastructure investments. Past evidence on the participation of the private sector in the financing and delivery of public services and sustainable infrastructure has been mixed, however, particularly from a gender perspective.<sup>25</sup>

The expert group meeting will discuss different financing modalities, including the potential and limitations of private sector participation in the financing and delivery of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure.

## IV. Profile of participants

The EGM will be attended by approximately 15 experts, appointed by the Executive Director of UN-Women. In selecting the experts, the criteria of geographical balance will be taken into consideration. Experts will include academics and practitioners with strong track record (including relevant publications) on the gender dimensions of social protection, public services and/or sustainable infrastructure in accordance with the objectives identified above. UN-Women will provide travel and daily subsistence allowance to appointed experts.

A limited number of observers from the United Nations system and other stakeholder groups may be invited to attend, at their own expense.

## V. Documentation

The documentation for the meeting will include:

- Expert papers: Short written contributions prepared by experts on specific issues in line with their expertise
- Background papers (in draft) commissioned by UN-Women as follows:
  1. **"Making the connections: Social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality"** by Deepta Chopra.

This background paper will highlight the conceptual and empirical interconnections between the three focus areas of the priority theme (social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure) from a gender equality perspective. It will highlight, in particular, how the three can work in tandem in order to address women's income security through social protection programmes (e.g. unemployment / public works programs; cash transfers) as well as services (e.g. child and elder care) and infrastructure (e.g. energy, water and sanitation, transport) that reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work. It will explore how far

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<sup>25</sup> There is by now a large literature on the detrimental effects of health sector commodification and privatization on women, Private sector participation in water infrastructure and services has also been critically reviewed. See, for example: Gideon, J. 2014. *Gender, Globalization, and Health in a Latin American Context*. London: Palgrave; Mackintosh, M. and P. Tibandebage. 2006. "Gender and Health Sector Reform: Analytical Perspectives on African Experience." In: S. Razavi and S. Hassim (eds.), *Gender and Social Policy in a Global Context: Uncovering the Gendered Structure of 'the Social'*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan / UNRISD, 237-257; Gunatilake, H. and M. J. Carangal-San Jose. 2008. "Privatization Revisited: Lessons from Private Sector Privatization in Water Supply and Sanitation in Developing Countries." Economic and Research Department Working Paper 115. Asian Development Bank, Manila; IEG (Independent Evaluation Group). 2014. "World Bank Group Support to Public-Private Partnerships: Lessons from Experience in Client Countries, FY 02-12." Washington, DC: World Bank Group.

these three are currently working in tandem across diverse regional contexts; document the synergies that arise when they do and the trade-offs that ensue when they fail to do so; and outline key principles and recommendations for gender-responsive policy design and implementation.

2. **"From principle to practice: Universal and gender-responsive health services"** by Gita Sen and Veloshnee Govender.

This background paper will provide an assessment of trends in universal health coverage (UHC) and health services from a gender perspective, making the link between the social protection (financing) and public services aspect of health in line with the priority theme. It will analyse and compare the potential and limitations of recent UHC reforms; discuss other, non-financial barriers that prevent women from using health services, including contexts where gender intersects with other forms of discrimination to create this exclusion; set out criteria for the assessment of service quality from a gender perspective, including the patient-provider relationship; and outline recommendation on how to address multiple and intersecting inequalities (gender with geographical location, income, race/ethnicity) through a 'targeting within universalism' approach. The analysis will be illustrated with concrete examples from different regional contexts.

## VI. Organization

The EGM will be convened by UN-Women on 13-15 September 2018. The meeting will be held at Glen Cove, Long Island, United States.

- The EGM will be conducted in English and all documentation will be in English.
- The EGM will meet in plenary and in working groups. Plenary presentations by experts will create the framework for discussions. Experts will meet in small working groups to discuss specific themes and draft concrete recommendations targeted at various stakeholders. The recommendations of working groups will be reviewed and finalized in plenary.
- Two co-chairs will be appointed by the experts at the beginning of the EGM to oversee the meeting and the preparation of the EGM report.

## VII. Expected outcomes

The outcome of the EGM will be a report, containing a summary of the discussion and recommendations directed at Member States and other stakeholders. The report will be widely disseminated, made available at the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women and on the website of UN-Women.