



Executive Board Informal Lunch Session

Building Resilience in Fragility: Women's Empowerment in Action A Knowledge Initiative of UN-Women's Fund for Gender Equality and the Government of Japan

Venue: Conference Room 1, UN Secretariat

Date and Time: 9 February 2015, 1:45 pm to 2:45pm

Presenters:

- **UN Women Representative:** Ms. Maria Noel Vaeza, Director, Programme Division
- **Government of Japan:** H.E. Mr. Motohide Yoshikawa, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN
- **UN Women Representative:** Ms. Elisa Fernandez, Chief, Fund for Gender Equality

Agenda and Time:

- ❖ **Welcome Remarks & Chair:** Ms. Maria Noel Vaeza, Programme Director (5 min)
- ❖ **Statement:** H.E. Mr. Motohide Yoshikawa, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN (5 min)
- ❖ **Presentation "Stories of Resilience in Lebanon and Guinea":** Showcase of 3 videos and programme briefing; Ms. Elisa Fernandez, Chief, Fund for Gender Equality (25 min)
- ❖ **Discussion with Member States:** (20 min)

Objectives:

On the occasion of first 2016 regular session of the Executive Board, UN-Women's Fund for Gender Equality and the Government of Japan are hosting an informal lunch session to launch a knowledge initiative on women's economic empowerment in fragile contexts. This joint initiative took a deeper look into four FGE grantee programmes in Lebanon, Guinea, and Sudan to understand women's experiences of economic empowerment and resilience as well as context-driven interventions in fragile settings. Three videos showcase individual and collective stories of women's empowerment in the selected fragile contexts and present the work of the Fund in these three case studies.

Background:

In 2014 a learning partnership was established between the Fund for Gender Equality and Government of Japan. The partnership aimed to generate and leverage more effective knowledge on the structural opportunities and barriers to women's economic empowerment in contexts affected by climate change, conflict, and migration.

The knowledge initiative focused on four (4) grantee programmes: one in Guinea, one in Sudan, and two in Lebanon to:

- Capture and convey women's experiences, aspirations, and perceptions of the available opportunities for and structural barriers to economic empowerment;
- Identify and share strategies for economic empowerment and personal resilience;
- Highlight good practices and effective local solutions for advancing women's economic empowerment opportunities in fragile contexts.

Overview of the FGE Programmes showcased during the session:

- **Guinea - PREM**
In Guinea, an FGE-supported programme through PREM trained small-scale women fishers, farmers, and agricultural producers on the remote Tristão Islands to integrate solar powered dehydration technologies into their production and processing of moringa leaves, and helped them access key markets.
- **Lebanon - Amel**
In Lebanon, FGE grantee Amel worked with rural Lebanese women and conflict-displaced refugee women to create opportunities for them to learn market skills and expand their income generation by training them in production of embroidered handicrafts, and processed and prepared foods.
- **Lebanon - SPNL**
In Lebanon, FGE grantee SPNL targeted rural women producers and entrepreneurs to strengthen the capacities and visibility of traditional women's entrepreneurial collectives – known locally as Hima and aimed to elevate the profile of rural women decision-makers in natural resource management plans and the eco-tourism sector.