# Annex III

# Implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (QCPR)



Planet 50-50 by 2030 Step It Up for Gender Equality

This annex is submitted in accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2013/5, which "requests the United Nations funds and programmes to consolidate their current annual reporting on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) within their reporting on the implementation of their strategic plans". In an effort to enhance harmonization and coherence across the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the four agencies developed a common reporting format outlined below. This table reports against the mandates of the General Assembly resolution 71/243 (2017-2021) on QCPR of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in its first year of implementation.

I. General Guidelines	
QCPR mandates (paragraphs 1-15)	Progress
<ul> <li>Calls upon the entities of the UNDS to:</li> <li>mainstream the SDGs in their strategic planning documents and their work at all levels (paragraph 8)</li> </ul>	UN-Women's Strategic Plan contributes to the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and tackles multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a synergistic manner: all outcome areas of the Strategic Plan are directly linked to multiple SDGs. Furthermore, UN-Women's results framework includes SDG indicators at the impact and outcome level: 34 percent of development results are
• continue to <i>strengthen results-based management</i> , focusing on long-term  development outcomes, developing common  methodologies for planning and reporting on  results, improving integrated results and  resources framework (paragraph 12)	measured through SDG indicators, out of which seven are on SDG 5. The Strategic Plan also includes the principle of <i>Leaving No One Behind</i> , central to the 2030 Agenda. The principle will be reflected in UN-Women's annual reporting, notably through data disaggregation: 31 percent of impact and outcome indicators in the new Strategic Plan are disaggregated by relevant categories. All UN-Women planning tools, including Strategic Notes, Annual Work Plans, and individual work plans are aligned with the Strategic Plan and integrate support for the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
• continue to promote women's empowerment and gender equality by enhancing gender mainstreaming through the full implementation of the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UN-Women continued to further strengthen and promote a results culture, adhere to results-based management (RBM) standards, and invest in strengthening RBM capacity in areas most critical to the organization's growth and effectiveness. UN-Women has adopted RBM standards and applies them to frame its own appraisal and approval processes, including through commissioning independent quality assessments of plans and reports. UN-Women has also developed an on-line RBM training course and certification.  UN-Women has developed an efficient Results Management System (RMS) fully integrated with its Enterprise
(paragraph 13)	Resource Planning System (Atlas). The RMS made the process of planning, monitoring and reporting more efficient, accountable and transparent. It also allows UN-Women to link results to resources.  UN-Women has improved the Integrated Results and Resources Framework of its new Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Indicators are more concrete and better quantifiable, and the baselines, milestones and targets have gone

through a comprehensive validation exercise. To ensure quality assurance in data collection and reporting, UN-Women prepared methodological notes for each indicator, providing a standardized understanding of the data and the conceptual definitions of each indicator, detailed methods of computation, sources of data and criteria for scoring.

Spearheaded by UN-Women, the UN System-wide Action Plan or UN-SWAP has held UN entities accountable for incorporating gender perspectives into all institutional functions of their work since 2012. In 2017, an unprecedented 66 UN entities, including Secretariat departments and offices, or more than 94 per cent of the total, reported on the Action Plan. Between 2012 and 2017, the percentage of indicators rated as meeting or exceeding requirements more than doubled, a sign of sustained improvement on key issues related to gender mainstreaming. Successful implementation of the UN-SWAP has been catalyzed by a strong network of over 300 UN-SWAP/gender focal points (double the strength of its 150 members in 2012), coordinated by UN-Women and spread across the UN system. UN-Women has supported entity focal points to meet the standards of the framework, including through capacity building trainings and workshop and the development of standard guidance documents and templates to improve performance for specific indicators. It has particularly focused on providing direct support for key drivers of progress such as development and implementation of UN-SWAP aligned gender policies. Between 2013 and 2017, for example, UN-Women provided direct support for the development of over 17 entity-specific gender policies.

A strengthened and updated second generation UN-SWAP framework will be rolled out in 2018. The updated UN-SWAP extends the reach of the initial UN-SWAP by including new performance indicators on gender-related and SDG relevant results, and leadership, as well as updating existing performance indicators. UN-SWAP 2.0 was developed through an 18-month participatory process involving over 50 UN entities, coordinated through an 11-member inter-agency Working Group on Results, chaired by UN-Women, and including piloting by 10 entities.

### II. Contributions of the UN operational activities for development

QCPR mandates (paragraphs 16-24)

Progress

Stresses the importance of mainstreaming SDGs... and urges the UN to (paragraph 17):

- continue to allocate resources to realize the development objectives of developing countries, and to support the endeavour to reach the furthest behind first (paragraph 17a)
- ensure a coherent approach to addressing the interconnections and cross-cutting elements across the SDGs and targets (paragraph 17b)
- ensure a balanced and integrated approach towards its support to the implementation of the SDGs... taking into account new and evolving development challenges and the need to build on lessons learned, address gaps, avoid duplication and overlap and strengthen the inter-agency approach (paragraph 17c)

Calls upon the UNDS to... improve their support to the building, development and strengthening of national capacities by (paragraph 21)

- Providing evidence-based and, where appropriate, integrated policy advice to support countries... mainstreaming the SDGs into national plans, including by promoting economic growth, social development and environmental protection, and ending poverty in all its forms (paragraph 21a)
- Strengthening their support to national institutions in planning, management and evaluation capacities, as well as statistical capacities, to collect, analyse and increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data (paragraph 21c)
- Assisting Governments in *leveraging* partnerships (paragraph 21d)
- Supporting, as appropriate, technical and scientific cooperation and North-South, South-South and triangular, regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology, innovation and knowledge-sharing (paragraph 21e)

The principle of leaving no one behind is central to the 2030 Agenda and has been reflected as a guiding principle in the UN-Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021. All Country Offices are now reflecting this principle in their Strategic Notes and results frameworks through data disaggregated by relevant categories.

It also guides UN-Women's grant making mechanisms. The Fund for Gender Equality and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, prioritize reaching vulnerable groups of women by supporting local and national women-led organizations proposing initiatives with high relevance and potential for impact in the lives of the most marginalized.

In line with its UN coordination mandate and the crosscutting nature of gender equality and women's empowerment, UN-Women's Flagship Programme Initiatives (FPIs), which represent the main programme modality to implement the Strategic Plan, bring together a range of partners at the global, regional and country levels in order to foster a coherent approach to achieving specific outcomes that contribute to several SDGs. Various modalities may be developed to ensure coordinated, informed, consistent and integrated implementation of the FPIs, such as the establishment of steering committees to guide programme implementation. Joint programmes may be used to operationalize the FPIs in a UNCT context.

Country Portfolio Evaluations conducted by UN-Women's Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) point to significant changes in national development policies and programmes as well as systems reforms in which UN-Women's support played a critical role. UN-Women supports Governments in translating global norms and standards in their national frameworks, including laws, policies and programmes, building on existing evidence, best practices, and latest policy knowledge. This includes "thought leadership" and analysis on critical policy issues, and provision of support to generate data and evidence to support policy making, implementation and monitoring of national development priorities. UN-Women works towards strengthening capacities of national mechanisms for gender equality in specific thematic areas through innovation, trainings, learning-focused workshops, support for long-term learning, development of national expertise in specific areas. In 2017, capacity development continued to be prioritized in UN-Women's work with 57 percent of funds allocated to it.

Supporting gender-responsive planning and budgeting is one of UN-Women priorities in the Strategic Plan. Since 2014, UN-Women has significantly contributed to mainstreaming gender perspectives into national action plans and budgets, strengthening the capacities of governments and gender equality advocates to do so, aligning national gender equality action plans and national development strategies; and establishing systems to track gender equality allocations.

UN-Women provides direct technical support to national public institutions in the production of sexdisaggregated data and gender statistics. This support has proven pivotal for the adoption or implementation of national plans, policies, strategies and legislation to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. This constitutes a dedicated output of the new Strategic Plan.

UN-Women prioritizes partnerships as its preferred programming modality in support of national priorities. It believes that these partnerships start from and leverage the mandates and strengths of the partners in support of gender equality and women's empowerment.

Calls upon UNDS to enhance coordination with humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding efforts by (paragraph 24):

- working collaboratively to move beyond shortterm assistance towards contributing to longerterm development gains, including by engaging, as appropriate, in joint risk analysis, needs assessments, practice response and a coherent multi-year time frame (paragraph 24a)
- improving coordination and synergy to maximize the impacts, results and effectiveness of support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (paragraph 24b)

UN-Women's work on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), which directly responds to guidance in the QCPR and the 2030 Agenda covered over 60 countries in 2017. As the global broker of knowledge and experiences on gender equality and women's empowerment, UN-Women employed a blended approach, which includes electronic platforms, knowledge gateways, a virtual school, cross-regional best practice adaptation dialogues, global and regional communities of practice and peer-to-peer education, to support countries to learn from each other and implement international commitments. UN-Women has identified South-South Cooperation as one of the drivers of change in its new Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

As articulated in the Strategic Plan 2018-2021, one of UN-Women's comparative advantages is its comprehensive and integrated contribution across the three pillars of the UN: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. UN-Women focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment across the humanitarian, development, peace nexus. Its FPIs on humanitarian action were designed to have an impact across the humanitarian/ development nexus, with a focus on developing capacity to address immediate survival needs but transition to long-term durable solutions.

UN-Women sits on the Joint Steering Committee on the Humanitarian Development Nexus and through that forum and others brings a gender perspective to the overall system-wide efforts in this regard. In 2017, UN-Women provided technical capacity support on gender-in-humanitarian action to coordination mechanisms in 16 countries.

UN-Women also co-chairs the IASC Gender Reference Group, through which it led the coordination of the IASC Gender Policy and Gender Accountability Framework, ensuring global commitment to gender in humanitarian response. In collaboration with Oxfam, it finalized testing of the IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook which will ensure synergy in all training of humanitarian actors globally from 2018.

# III. Funding of the operational activities for development

QCPR mandates (paragraphs 25-43) Urges the entities of the United Nations development system to continue enhancing the transparency and accountability of inter-agency pooled funding mechanisms, as well as to continue developing well-designed pooled funds (paragraph

33)

Also urges the entities of the UNDS, through their governing bodies, to take concrete steps to address the decline of core contributions and the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources (paragraph 34)

- Exploring options to ensure an adequate and predictable level of core and non-core funding on a multi-year basis (paragraph 34a)
- Identifying, in the context of integrated results and resources frameworks, the level of resources adequate to produce the results expected (paragraph 34b)
- Exploring options to broaden and diversify the donor base in order to reduce the reliance of the system on a limited number of donors (paragraph 34c)

### Progress

UN-Women fully espouses the enhanced use of interagency pooled funds as well as thematic funds, as they have demonstrated to be well suited to promote integrated approaches to support the implementation of Agenda 2030 by improving aid coordination and coherence and bridging the silos between development, humanitarian and peacebuilding assistance. In 2017, UN-Women joined the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, a new generation of pooled funding arrangement aligned with the SDGs. The initiative, which brings together UNDP, UNFPA and UN-Women as core agencies, is funded by the European Union and backed up by a technical team hosted by UN-Women.

In line with the QCPR, UN-Women puts a strong emphasis on the mobilization of core resources. Core resources represent the highest quality funding and support the implementation of the full range of outcomes set out in the Strategic Plan.

UN-Women is one of the most widely supported UN entities. In 2017, 107 Member States contributed to its core resources, with 65 Member States increasing their total contribution in 2017, 12 of which doubling or more than doubling their support and 26 returning donors. Three non-OECD DAC countries contributed above \$1 million (China, India and the United Arab Emirates) and contributions from the European Union have increased from \$5.3 million in 2011 to \$22 million in 2017.

UN-Women encourages its donors to make multi-year pledges and to increase their core and flexible non-core contributions in a predictable and stable manner. In 2017, it secured 56 multi-year pledges to core resources.

Non-core resources complement core resources towards achieving results in the Strategic Plan. In line with recommendations from the QCPR, such resources should be as predictable, timely and flexible as possible to minimize transaction costs and the risks of strategic distortions. In accordance with these principles, UN-Women focuses on attracting high-quality, soft-earmarked non-core resources, notably through its FPIs and by continuing to promote the successful experience in direct funding of strategic notes and annual work plans at the country level. To date, donor roundtables were held for four FPIs and overall, FPIs have generated nearly \$120 million in firm multi-year pledges. In 2017, UN-Women reached an all-time high in non-core resources of \$ 214.2 million, supporting accelerated programme delivery.

In the context of developing the new Strategic Plan, UN-Women presented for the first time, and in line with the practices followed by other agencies, an integrated framework that brings together development results and organizational effectiveness and efficiency results. In addition, the framework links outcomes to financial resources on the basis of a specific methodology, which takes into consideration expenditures over the previous years and expected future demand, based on secure revenue.

UN-Women is leveraging innovative sources of private sector financing, including through crowd-funding, digital fundraising, public giving, and engagement with high net-worth individuals. The number of partnerships with the private sector has grown from 12 in 2014 to 38 by the end of 2017. Contributions from the corporate sector, foundations, high net-worth individuals, digital donors and National Committees amounted to \$17 million, a doubling from \$8.2 million in 2016.

Urges all entities of the UNDS to comply with UN-Women is complying with existing cost recovery policies and is moving to align its processes accordingly by 31 December 2018. Further, in response to Executive Board decisions related to the agencies' effort towards existing cost recovery policies and report annually on their implementation to their respective a harmonized cost recovery methodology, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women have jointly worked on evidence-based proposals on cost recovery for submission to the respective Executive Boards. Information on governing bodies (paragraph 35) the waivers to the eight percent standard cost recovery rate are also shared annually with the Executive Board. The 2018-2019 Integrated Budget Document endorsed by the Executive Board was fully aligned with the QCPR Urges the entities of the UNDS to align their next resolution. UN-Women provided an analysis of the quality and quantity of its resources as part of the Structured integrated budgets with the present resolution and Dialogue on Financing, which regularly takes place at the Board's second regular session. UN-Women is also to improve the functioning and effectiveness of the developing a dialogue with the Board on a continuous, informal basis in regard to financing. The last report for the Structured Dialogue on Financing (UNW/2017/8) explores how the organization has fared in mobilizing and structured dialogues on how to fund the development results agreed in the strategic plans allocating resources to its strategic priorities over the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and provides an analysis of how (paragraph 43) to reach an adequate level of resources to ensure the integrity of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

### IV. Strengthening the governance of the UN operational activities for development

# QCPR mandates (paragraphs 44-46)

*Stresses* the need to improve the governance of the United Nations development system, including by (paragraph 45):

- Enhancing the transparency of the United Nations Development Group to ensure their effective interaction with and improve their responsiveness to Member States (paragraph 45c)
- Enhancing system-wide coherence and efficiency, reduce duplication and build synergy across governing bodies of the entities of United Nations development system (paragraph 46)

### Progress

UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN-Women are fully committed to working better together, in a spirit of strengthened coherence and collaboration. In 2017, these entities integrated a Common Chapter in their respective Strategic Plans 2018-2021. Thereby, they are stepping up joint efforts, with a sense of urgency, to better support countries to achieve the SDGs and implement the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the four strategic plans embrace a clear commitment to greater coherence in support of results. The Common Chapter has been designed as a direct response to the QCPR resolution to harness collaborative advantages and to build on each other's comparative strengths in compliance with respective mandates and in partnership with other members of the UN development system. Key areas of collaboration are in particular: (a) eradicating poverty; (b) addressing climate change; (c) improving adolescent and maternal health; (d) achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; (e) ensuring greater availability and use of disaggregated data for sustainable development; and (f) emphasizing that development is a central goal in itself, and that in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations the development work of the entities of the UN development system can contribute to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in accordance with national plans, needs and priorities and respecting national ownership.

## V. Improving the functioning of the UNDS

### QCPR mandates (paragraphs 47-75)

*Recognizes* that the presence of the entities of the United Nations development system at the country level should be tailored to meet the specific challenges and needs of programme countries, and requests UNCTs to (paragraph 50)

- strengthen the use of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) or equivalent (paragraph 50a)
- improve the focus on results, including common results, and the division of labour and enhance the inter-agency approach within the UNDS at the country level (paragraph 50b)
- adopt and abide by clear rules, including on the dissemination of all documents and draft decisions (paragraph 50c)

### **Progress**

UN-Women ensures alignment of field office strategic notes/country programme document development to the UNDAF timeframe. Internal guidance and tools have been put in place to maximize UN-Women office engagement in UNDAF development and implementation. The Entity played a prominent role in the development of the new UNDAF guidance which was rolled out in 2017. The UNDAF and UN-Women's Strategic Note cycles are aligned and fully coordinated. Both strategic documents are aligned with national priorities.

Building on its normative support and UN coordination roles, UN-Women's global, regional and country programmes as part of its operational activities foster UN-wide partnerships to respond to Member States' requests for support in translating global norms and standards into transformative change for women and girls at the national level.

Gender equality and women's empowerment is the thematic area with the highest concentration of joint programmes, underscoring the value of coordinated system-wide efforts in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. UN-Women accounts for about a third of total UN personnel contributing to SDG 5. In complement to its own specialist knowledge, UN-Women can access a vast network of knowledge and expertise and acts as a knowledge-hub to support gender analysis and gender mainstreaming. In this way, UN-Women promotes system-wide coherence on gender equality and women's empowerment and interagency synergies, so that initiatives for women and girls are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

In 2017, 62 percent of UNDAFs featured gender specific outcome results, up from 47 percent in 2010. Working in close cooperation with the RC/RC office on gender mainstreaming within the work of the UNCT, UN-

*Stresses* the importance of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the resident coordinator system (paragraph 57)

- ensure that the UNDS at the country level periodically provide the resident coordinator with sufficient information on their activities in the field (paragraph 57b)
- ensure the full implementation of the management and accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system (paragraph 57c)

Requests the United Nations development system in that regard *to adopt flexible, cost-effective and collaborative models* for its field presence, as appropriate (paragraph 68)

Calls upon the UNDS to introduce or strengthen knowledge management strategies and policies (paragraph 70)

Calls for greater efforts in this regard by the entities of the UNDS at both the country level and globally to share data and develop joint needs assessments and planning frameworks based on joint analysis and comparative advantages (paragraph 71)

Stresses the need to ensure equal and fair distribution based on gender balance and on as wide a geographical basis as possible (paragraph 72)

*Urges* the UNDS to align its staff capacities to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including by *building transformative and empowered leadership, repositioning staff* 

Women also leads or co-leads the majority of gender theme groups or results group on gender equality at the country level.

UNCT Performance Indicators for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (commonly known as Gender Scorecard), an example of a tool which brings the whole UNCT around a specific issue, has been updated and aligned to the UN-SWAP 2.0. The updated tool, now known as UNCT-SWAP Scorecard, uses fifteen common indicators to assess performance of UNCTs against harmonized minimum standards on gender mainstreaming. The framework was piloted in 2017 and 14 UNCTs reported on implementation. It is expected to be rolled out in approximately 10-15 countries in 2018.

UN-Women is actively ensuring that the management and accountability system is effectively in place at the country level. Its Representatives have effectively completed their self-assessment and have actively contributed to the assessment of the RC. UN-Women continues to be highly engaged in supporting RCs through leadership or co-leadership of Inter-Agency Groups. The application of the UNCT-SWAP Scorecard is also critical as one of the dimensions refers to leadership, which has an implication for the RC's accountability towards gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In the wider context of UNDS reform and in line with the recommendations of the evaluation on its regional architecture, UN-Women is defining country presence typologies to respond to Member States' requests for support, while maximizing results and reflecting national context and capacity, based on several principles outlined in the Strategic Plan. As part of its commitment to efficiency and accountability, UN-Women aims to maintain comparable management ratios across its country presence.

UN-Women is in the process of reviewing its knowledge management strategy and mechanisms. As preparatory work for the development of the strategy, a mapping and preliminary typology of existing knowledge products and practices were conducted. The strategy will be developed in 2018 through internal and external consultations, including with other UN entities.

As noted earlier, the UNDAF continues to be a critical planning tool for UN-Women. It fully engages in the UNDAF process at country and regional level, including by leveraging such tools as the UNCT-SWAP Scorecard, the Gender Marker and other agencies' gender-responsive accountability tools. UN-Women proactively works towards ensuring a strong gender analysis in Common Country Assessments (CCAs) to feed into the UNDAF planning and translate into gender-responsive outcomes and indicators.

All selection processes strive to ensure balanced representation with respect to geography, gender and parent units/departments/offices, including field offices, at all stages, including long-listing, short-listing and interviews. This process is reviewed and validated by a Central Review Board to ensure proper application of these principles. UN-Women staff composition is geographically diverse and comprises a total of 129 nationalities. The 29 senior posts, D1 and above, are occupied by staff with 21 different nationalities

Over the past two years, UN-Women has developed and launched several staff leadership capacity development programmes: Leadership Programme, Emerging Leadership Programme and Mentoring Programme which are aligned with and incorporate the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the UN and UN-Women values. Furthermore, it has implemented a rotation policy and successfully conducted its first rotation exercise to

capacities, and promoting inter-agency mobility
and facilitating a mobile and flexible global
workforce (paragraph 74)

increase internal staff mobility. UN-Women also actively participates in the Inter-Agency Mobility Framework to promote staff mobility between various UN agencies.

# VI. Section VI. Follow-up, monitoring and reporting

# QCPR mandates (paragraphs 76-84)

Reaffirms that all entities of UNDS carrying out operational activities for development should align their planning and activities to take appropriate action consistent with each entity's mandate, role and expertise for the full implementation of the present resolution (paragraph 78)

Requests the entities of the UNDS carrying out operational activities for development to ensure that their planning and activities, and strategic plans build synergies and reduce overlap across the system, and identify the entity's specific contribution to the system-wide support, including how staff are incentivized to work towards system-wide goals (paragraph 79)

### **Progress**

The new Strategic Plan is firmly anchored in the QCPR. The Integrated Results and Resources Framework includes indicators derived from the QCPR in its organizational effectiveness and efficiency section. All UN-Women policies and planning instruments are aligned with the Strategic Plan and support the implementation of the QCPR. UN-Women will continue to report on implementation of the QCPR through its annual report.

UN-Women has prioritized partnerships with other UN agencies in its programming, supporting partners to adopt a gender-responsive approach to their work and ensure women's full and equal engagement to accelerate the achievement of system-wide results.

Underscoring the value of system-wide efforts in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, UN-Women works through the Resident Coordinator System and UN Country Teams, leveraging the UNDAF, Standard Operating Procedures and joint programming as its overall approach for country-level programming.