

Report of the Fifteenth Annual Session of the Inter-Agency
Network on Women and Gender Equality

10-11 March 2016

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Summary

Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director/UN Women, opened the fifteenth annual session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, held on 10-11 March 2016 in New York. Ms Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director/UN Women, also participated in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the Network.

On the first day, IANWGE members shared their progress and achievements in 2015 with UN Women's Executive Director before engaging on a discussion on intergovernmental priorities in 2016, where it is important to maintain the momentum on gender equality and the empowerment of women in light of the normative gains achieved the previous year. The discussion focused on highlighting opportunities and actions needed to keep gender equality high on the agenda of the World Humanitarian Summit, Habitat III, COP22, ECOSOC Reform and the High Level Political Forum follow-up to the 2030 Agenda, including ways in which UN entities can coordinate their messaging to influence these processes.

In the afternoon, the meeting addressed some of the anticipated challenges with respect to supporting the localization and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This included a presentation on the work of the UN system on indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of the sustainable development goals. Small group work allowed IANWGE members to share and have in-depth discussions on the ways in which their respective entities will be operationalizing SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls as well as mainstreaming gender in the SDG goal(s) relevant to their mandates. These deliberations highlighted how SDG5 cannot be implemented in isolation from the other SDGs.

On the second day, the annual session addressed standing items and emerging issues for gender equality and the empowerment of women that warrant system-wide attention and coordination. IANWGE members were updated on a number of items: women, peace and security agenda, including gender and youth in peace-building; ending violence against women; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and the corporate evaluation of UN Women's contribution to the UN system coordination on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The annual agenda also focused on emerging issues and initiatives, such as global migration, disability, sexual rights, violent extremism, joint advocacy and communications as well as the Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. These presentations aimed to bring about a common understanding of how gender intersects with these issues and to highlight potential areas of future inter-agency work and engagement. The final session discussed the initial results of the 2015 UN-SWAP reporting and the next iteration of the framework (UN-SWAP 2.0).

Overall, the presentations and discussions highlighted the enormous opportunity as well as the number of existing initiatives to accelerate the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda in substantive and decisive ways. Moving forward, IANWGE, as an inter-agency network, can play an important role in driving gender equality results across the UN system at all levels and in ensuring that the UN system is "fit for purpose" with respect to fulfilling new and existing commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women. See Table I for summary of key decision points and follow-up actions.

Table 1: Summary of Key Decisions and Follow up Actions

Action Point	Responsible body
Accelerate gender mainstreaming in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a retreat to review the role and functioning of IANWGE in order to effectively support gender mainstreaming in the UN system and the work on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. • Develop a think piece on how the Network, by building on each entity’s comparative advantage, can guide and support the gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 	<p>IANWGE Secretariat</p> <p>IANWGE Secretariat</p>
Support the Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the work of the HLP on women’s economic empowerment including by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying strong academics and researchers, especially from the Global South, to contribute expertise and knowledge on this topic. ○ Sharing entities’ experiences, initiatives, good practices and resources on women’s economic empowerment on www.empowerwomen.org. ○ Informing the Secretariat of the High Level Panel (sghlp@unwomen.org) about entities’ Calendar of Events to help identify other fora for engagement. 	<p>IANWGE members</p> <p>IANWGE members</p> <p>IANWGE members</p> <p>IANWGE members</p>
Enhance inter-agency collaboration on gender equality and intersectional issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen linkages to inter-agency support group on indigenous peoples and mainstream gender in their programme of work. • Explore interest in constituting an informal working group of IANWGE members on 	<p>IANWGE members</p> <p>IANWGE members</p>

<p>gender and disability to ensure that the needs and priorities of women with disabilities are addressed in specific inter-agency initiatives (i.e. women's economic empowerment).</p>	
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Opening Session

Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, opened the 15th Annual Session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE). In her remarks, the Executive Director emphasized that the UN system must get gender mainstreaming right, in the context of the 2030 Agenda, in order to drive stronger results and support Member States to fully utilize UN system's collective expertise to achieve positive impact. Gender mainstreaming needs to be more substantive and systemic. There is a need to find a decisive approach that enables better coordination and collaboration on strategic priorities and joint operational work. At present, UN entities tend to focus on small and diffused projects that do not drive change and, instead, make it more difficult to achieve shared goals.

The IANWGE network has an opportunity to devise a ground-breaking agenda that is tied to specific results and a specific timeframe. Meetings such as this one are a reminder of commonly shared goals and how the UN system intends to achieve them in partnership and collaboration. Gender inequality and the systems of patriarchy that underpin it cannot be dismantled through a piecemeal, ad hoc approach. The entire UN system has a role in mainstreaming gender in policies and programmes.

2015 was a pivotal year for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States affirmed existing commitments and agreed to new ones on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in several key intergovernmental agreements reached last year beginning with the CSW59 Political Declaration, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and concluding with the Paris Agreement on climate change. Advocacy on violence against women must also remain a top priority. The 16 Days of Activism "Orange the World" campaign is now well recognized and has helped raise the profile of violence against women across the world.

Building on this momentum, IANWGE must ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women continues to be on everyone's agenda at the highest level. One of the key lessons from the twenty-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action was that heads of State and institutional leaders must drive the gender equality agenda. It cannot fall to the ministries of women and/or other national women's machinery, which are often underfunded, or gender focal points in government departments, many of whom lack the necessary clout to influence decisions.

Within the UN system, it is important to examine the lack of progress on gender parity. Senior women have left the system and are being replaced by men. At the current rate, it will take eight years to achieve gender parity at the D2 level. Incremental change and business as usual approaches are unacceptable. The UN system cannot claim any credibility if it does not lead by example. A mechanism is therefore needed to engage with the Secretariat and other UN agencies on the issue of gender parity. The Chiefs Executive Board on Coordination must bring all entities together, at the highest level, around a set of common principles to improve UN coherence on policy, operational and administrative aspects.

The System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) has been an inspiration and a successful roadmap for driving the development of new gender equality policies and strategies in many UN entities and for transforming institutional structures and practices. This year, 64 entities reported on the UN-SWAP framework. Many Member States are interested in learning from this experience. One UN country teams should can therefore share and promote the UN-SWAP

framework with governments, which can be voluntarily adapted and introduced to any cabinet or ministry as well as at national, even at subnational, levels.

Looking ahead, the Executive Director emphasized how important it is for the UN system to generate expertise and galvanize action on strategic gender equality issues that support the gender-responsive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to produce substantive equality and transformative change for women and girls. In this regard, gender mainstreaming is critical and yet many Member States still question what gender mainstreaming means in practice.

Given the significance of gender mainstreaming in the new agenda, the Executive Director suggested convening an IANWGE retreat to examine how the UN system can better support Member States to implement gender mainstreaming strategies. The UN system needs a more user-friendly way to promote gender mainstreaming. Increased investments to close the gender resource gap must be encouraged. Good data, based on strong evidence, is also essential for the successful implementation of new and existing gender equality commitments embedded in the 2030 Agenda and the Beijing Platform for Action. At present, data disaggregated by sex remains an exception. The goal in the next five years (by 2020) is to sufficiently mobilize the international community around gender equality and the empowerment of women to make data disaggregation by sex the norm.

The Executive Director noted that there would be over 500 events at CSW60. UN Women would launch the equal pay campaign as well as hold a public consultation related to the High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. For the first time, the CSW will convene a Youth Forum to empower a new generation of leaders. UN Women would also be working to ensure an agreed negotiated outcome document as well as an agreed multi-year programme of work.

The next Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) resolution is an opportunity for the UN development system to strengthen its system-wide mandate on gender mainstreaming. The Chief Executives Board on Coordination (CEB) should engage UN entities at the highest levels around a set of common principles. It is time to make strategic choices and to shift our efforts in the right direction.

Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director, Lakshmi Puri, reinforced the Executive Director's remarks. She underscored the importance of capitalizing on this *once-in-a-generation*, "big opportunity moment" to build on the historic gains of 2015 and to advance the agenda on gender equality and the empowerment of women in substantive and decisive ways. She urged IANGWE to use the opportunity of the 15th annual session to strategize on how the UN system can be "fit for purpose" and spur action on the intergovernmental agreements reached last year.

Session 1: Dialogue with UN Women Executive Director

IANWGE members shared with UN Women's Executive Director both progress made by their respective entity and the challenges faced in mainstreaming gender perspectives within their institutions and / or programmes. The objective of this session was to identify critical areas and potential solutions where interagency and/or UN Women partnership and support is required, particularly with respect to advocacy, coordination and technical support on gender equality and the empowerment of women

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs /Division of Sustainable Development: Since gender equality and the empowerment of women is a goal as well as a cross-cutting issue across other Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require the UN system to work in an integrated manner and not in silos. DESA has designed tools to support Member States to develop strategies for SDG implementation and monitoring and can be found on their website

[\[https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/\]](https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/) Data will also play a vital role in the implementation and monitoring of the new agenda. The collection and availability of sex-disaggregated data, for example, will not only make it possible to integrate a gender perspective in sectoral strategies but also to track the impact of interventions on women and girls. The Division of Statistics and Statistical Commission have developed a set of indicators to monitor the implementation of SDG5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is also important for Member States to agree on and adopt gender indicators for other goal areas.

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** acknowledged the inherent tension between the system-wide coordination role in UN Women's mandate and the role of IANWGE. Since UN Women's establishment, the role of IANWGE as an advocacy and coordination platform for gender equality and the empowerment of women has diminished. Effective coordination requires the right architecture and substantive expertise. The corporate evaluation of UN Women's coordination role should provide insights and recommendations for clarifying and strengthening the role of IANWGE. Gender focal points across the UN system should view UN Women's Flagship Programme Initiative as another platform to enable UN coordination and respond as One UN on strategic gender priorities.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) welcomed the optimism in the room and thanked UN Women for its leadership on gender equality and the empowerment of women. As sister agencies, UN Women and UNFPA have deepened their work through joint programming and joint advocacy, especially with respect to gender-based violence and essential services; adolescent girls; engaging men and boys; working with civil society; and SDG5. Both entities have also initiated discussions on addressing women and girls with disability. UNFPA also cited the productive collaboration with UN Women on the UN-SWAP. UNFPA supported the idea of convening an IANWGE retreat to discuss key issues and strategies related to SDG implementation, especially as Member States and donors are looking at the UN system to lead on the implementation of gender equality and the empowerment of women commitments.

The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) is restructuring the Gender and Cultural Diversity Unit to align more closely with the sustainable development agenda. In addition to equity, rights and ethnicity, gender equality is one of four crosscutting areas. In 2015, progress was made on the UN-SWAP, although PAHO has no women in director-level positions. In agencies that do not have gender in their mandates, PAHO is finding it challenging to have an in-depth engagement on gender equality and the empowerment of women. In that regard, PAHO enthusiastically welcomed the idea of convening an IANWGE retreat.

In the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, gender resides in the International Labour Standards, Rights at Work and Gender Equality programme and is a crosscutting theme in FAO's five programmes. At the corporate level, gender equality is tracked as part of the corporate monitoring framework. All leaders/managers are therefore responsible for promoting gender issues within the organization. In addition, FAO interventions target the gender gaps that have been identified under each programme. FAO has a gender policy and a network of 200 gender focal points at regional and country levels. The UN-SWAP has been instrumental for catalysing these results. One challenge that FAO faces is how to mainstream gender in a scientific, technical organization. FAO drew attention to the importance of monitoring and the means of implementation at the regional level and looks forward to discussing ways in which inter-agency collaboration with UN partners can contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in this context.

In the last five years, the **Office of the High Commission on Human Rights (OHCHR)** has made real progress to mainstream gender in its policies and programmes. The UN-SWAP has driven much of these results and UN Women's coordination and leadership in this area must be acknowledged. The Geneva Gender Champions has been a push forward on gender mainstreaming internally. Moving forward, more

guidance is needed on how to mainstream gender in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as in the women, peace and security agenda. In addition to working with UN system partners, it is also important to engage with governments and private sector on women's human rights. OHCHR is particularly concerned about the strong push back on women's rights from Member States, especially in the area of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, and hence the danger of fragmentation. The UN needs to come together and speak in one voice in its promotion and protection of women's comprehensive rights.

UN Habitat has found the UN-SWAP to be an excellent and effective framework for driving institutional change on gender mainstreaming. UN-Habitat also emphasized the importance of strengthening coordination on gender equality and women's empowerment at country and regional level. At country level, Member States view the UN as a system and not as individual entities, so it is important to leverage the UN's collective strengths. UN-Habitat also highlighted that resource tracking for gender equality and the empowerment of women, in the context of SDG implementation, is an important consideration, given the increased interest in value for money approaches. UN-Habitat was pleased to see the focus on youth and the planned youth outcomes document as part of the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Responding to the youth bulge from a gender lens must be a priority.

The **UN Global Compact** also expressed how much it valued the partnership with UN Women, especially vis-à-vis the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEP). The WEP seek to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community. Highlights in 2015 include the annual UN Global Compact event, 34 bell rings at stock exchanges around the world, and a series of webinars. The UN Global Compact also stated that more work was needed in the area of "integration" and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women as a force multiplier. The UN Global Compact is interested at looking at mainstreaming gender in the area of procurement and suggested this as a possible component in the UN-SWAP.

In 2015, the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** took several important steps to mainstream gender within the institution. It introduced a new policy on gender equality; established a gender mainstreaming steering group; assigned gender focal points across the organization, that were mandated to spend 20 per cent of their time on gender equality; created an office on gender equality and the empowerment of women; and developed a gender strategy (2016 – 2019). UNIDO also revised the job profiles of senior managers and is mainstreaming gender in its technical cooperation, core programmes and activities. In 2016, greater attention will be given to developing gender-sensitive industrial policies, which will address, *inter alia*, the gender wage gap and women in leadership positions.

The Office of Disarmament Affairs (ODA) is a very small office. There has been slow progress on gender parity. ODA spearheads the Women Scholarship for Peace, an initiative that seeks to address women's underrepresentation among professionals and decision makers in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and peace. It also aims at bringing women already working on these professions into the disarmament and non-proliferation world, thus linking it with the development world and contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. ODA in 2015 undertook a global study on the importance of disarmament to the women, peace and security agenda. Also, for the first time, ODA considered the gender impacts of nuclear weapons.

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** launched a new gender policy (2015-2020) to ensure that the different food security and nutrition needs of women, men, girls and boys are met. The policy articulates a gender mainstreaming strategy based on the twin-track approach across all of its four policy objectives and uses the UN-SWAP accountability framework as an institutional benchmark for gender mainstreaming. The gender policy also supports improved use of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee gender marker. In addition, WFP re-launched its gender focal points as the Gender Results Network to

enhance staff capacities and is striving for greater gender parity at all staff levels. Presently, 41.5 per cent of staff at the P4 level is women.

The **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** thanked UN Women for its leadership in inter-agency coordination and in advancing progress on the UN-SWAP. UNICEF has collaborated with UN Women in the areas of girls’ education; violence against women and girls, specifically around gender socialization; and integrating gender expertise in sectors as well as in measurement and evaluation. UNICEF also voiced its support for the implementation of the UN-SWAP standards and intends to align its forthcoming corporate strategic plan with the next generation of UN-SWAP. UNICEF is in the final year of implementing its Gender Action Plan (2014-2017), which is also aligned with the UN-SWAP framework. The Gender Action Plan has helped UNICEF to address gaps and to strengthen institutional capacities. At present, UNICEF has P5-level Gender Advisors in all regions. Nevertheless, in areas where there is no dedicated gender capacity, there is unfinished work to do.

Secretariat for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples: At the headquarters level, IANWGE has been an inspiration and has served as a model of coordination and working as One UN on gender equality and the empowerment of women. In 2015, the Secretariat for the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues finalized a UN-SWAP for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). UN Women provided technical support to this process. The Secretariat also urged other entities to integrate indigenous issues into their policies and programmes. Practices such as including a question on the situation of indigenous women in surveys are important to continue, as UN Women had done during the Beijing + 20 review process. The Secretariat also stated that the Commission on the Status of Women cannot continue to view and respond to women as a monolithic category. UN entities also need to be more mindful of the impact of the SDG goals on indigenous peoples. For example, SDG2 on Zero Hunger and SDG4 on Quality Education will not support the rights of indigenous people. An indicator on violence against women and indigenous women is also important to include. There is an inter-agency support group on indigenous peoples, modelled on IANWGE, to promote the mainstreaming of indigenous people’s issues within the UN system. The Secretariat looks forward to strengthening the linkages of IANWGE to this support group, as a way to enhance inter-agency collaboration on the intersections of gender equality and indigenous peoples.

2015 was also a good year for gender equality at the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** Secretariat. The senior management team assumed accountability for implementing the UN-SWAP. All managers and supervisors are expected to have a goal on gender. In addition, UNFCCC was able to collaborate with UN DESA and other colleagues on gender equality and climate change issues.

The **United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)** stated that a fundamental change in how women access finance is needed. UNCDF will partner with UN Women to examine how UN Women and UNCDF can work jointly to address barriers that keep women from accessing finance.

Key accomplishments of the **International Telecommunications Union (ITU)** include the establishment of a Gender Task Force to work on gender mainstreaming; the implementation of a Gender Equality and Mainstreaming policy; making available the e-training, “I know gender,” including guidelines, to all ITU staff. ITU celebrates an International Girls in ICT Day on the fourth Thursday of April each year in 150 countries worldwide, in 2015; more than 66,000 girls took part in over 1,800 celebrations in over 130 countries. Through the Women’s Digital Literacy Campaign, ITU trained over one million women in digital literacy in 79 countries. In partnership with UN Women, ITU launched the annual GEM-Tech Awards to celebrate personal or organizational achievements in mainstreaming gender equality in the area of ICTs. In December 2015, ITU, together with 10 partners, launched an Action Plan to Close the Digital Gender Gap to build on the progress made since the Beijing Platform of Action, the World Summit on the

Information Society, and the 2030 Agenda. In terms of challenges, ITU has encountered difficulties enlisting the buy-in of senior management and the ITU membership on gender mainstreaming, addressing gender parity, and on allocating adequate resources for this work. If women and girls lack proper education, including education in the STEM field, it will reduce their chances of being able to become agents of change, to fully exercise their human rights, and to enter the job market resulting in serious ramifications for their social, economic and political inclusion. This is particularly important in the face of a predicted skills shortfall in the ICT sector of at least two million jobs globally by 2020.

The **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)** reported on the usefulness of the UN-SWAP. In 2015, UNRWA reviewed its gender-based violence referral strategy across all five fields of its operations in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza. By making gender equality an integral and explicit focus of its protection unit, more resources have been allocated to it.

As part of its Strategic Framework 2016-2021, the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)** promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women in disaster risk reduction as a priority. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,¹ adopted by Member States in March 2015, promotes gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction and recognizes the role of women's leadership in disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes. The Sendai Framework is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and mutually reinforces the Paris Agreement. As the secretariat of the UN Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, UNISDR contributes to fostering and monitoring gender mainstreaming in system-wide efforts that support implementation of the Sendai Framework. UNISDR strongly values the partnership with UN Women as part of its commitment to the UN-SWAP and the development of a UN Secretariat-wide Gender Equality Strategy. UNISDR is also committed to the Geneva Gender Champion Initiative and to implementing the outcomes of the High Level Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Dialogue on "Mobilizing Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction" organized at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015.

Concluding Remarks

UN Women's Executive Director appealed to IANWGE members to use the occasion of the annual session to deliberate collectively on key areas where the UN system, through the network, can lead and inspire transformative action on gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is important to galvanize action on a "game-changing" idea that will result in systemic and lasting change (for example, equal pay for equal work; engendering procurement policies and processes) and to invest greater efforts in ensuring the participation of women's organizations at the table. Initiatives such as the Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment offer IANWGE members a strategic opportunity to influence, in a coordinated and integrated way, an intrinsic component of the gender equality and the empowerment of women agenda by contributing the collective knowledge and expertise of the UN system to effect real change in the lives of women and girls. It is also important to recognize that the added value of the UN System lies in its role as the facilitator and not the leader of the women's movement. The Executive Director ended by stressing the need for the UN system to "jump together" in order to leave no one behind.

¹ The Sendai Framework serves as the blueprint for disaster risk reduction implementation over 2015-2030. The Framework was adopted by Member States in March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan and was endorsed by the UN General Assembly.

Session 2: Gender in key intergovernmental debates in 2016

Assistant Secretary-General and UN Women Deputy Executive Director, Lakshmi Puri, chaired the second session of the meeting. The objective of this session was three-fold: (i) to inform IANWGE members of the key intergovernmental meeting and debates in 2016 (i.e. the World Humanitarian Summit, ECOSOC Reform, UN Habitat III, and COP22), (ii) to share actions that are being taken to maintain gender equality high on the agenda, and (iii) to highlight ways in which UN entities can coordinate their messaging on gender equality and the empowerment of women to influence these processes.

The Deputy Executive Director acknowledged the efforts of UN agencies, affirming that what the UN system is doing on gender equality and the empowerment of women is making a difference and is moving the needle incrementally and steadily in a positive direction. The UN-SWAP is driving changes in organizational culture, performance and results. A retreat would provide a meaningful opportunity to identify the good practices that have emerged and should be scaled up in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Normative achievements gained in 2015 are a testament to how sustained political will and leadership can decisively inform intergovernmental processes and outcomes.

As previously stated, 2015 ended with unprecedented and high-level commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women in a number of key agendas and processes: Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, women, peace and security, as well as climate change. Never in the history of the United Nations have a number of intergovernmental processes converged to produce a historic compact on gender equality and women's empowerment. The UN, including IANWGE, must capitalize on this moment to catalyse action on the full and accelerated implementation of these commitments. A critical first step is to analyse the gender dimensions of these global agendas in order to understand the implications of these commitments on UN system coordination and delivery.

Given a renewed sense of purpose and direction, IANWGE, as an inter-agency mechanism, must consider how it will raise its game in this new space. IANWGE needs to consider how it can bring policy and practice together in a systematic way to enable UN entities to deliver and to support Member States in the localization and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Entities must consider the strategic partnerships needed to accentuate and multiply the UN system's collective impact. Each UN agency has its counterpart constituency in civil society: those partnerships must be engendered. The UN must also enhance its collaboration with the private sector.

The next Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Resolution (QCPR) must reflect the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the new sustainable development agenda and to elevate the importance of gender mainstreaming across and within the UN development system. As a network, IANWGE can coordinate its messaging to support an even stronger outcome on gender mainstreaming in the QCPR process. In this respect, IANWGE members can and should promote the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action not only as a blueprint for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, but also as a framework for sustainable development. Leveraged in this way, the Beijing Platform of Action can drive a mind-set change within institutions and can be used to significantly increase investments and resources to close the gender gap at all levels.

As gender equality and the empowerment of women is both a stand-alone goal and integral to the achievement of all other sustainable development goals, there must be a commitment to systematically mainstream gender in all aspects of SDG implementation. All UN entities have a responsibility to support the implementation of SDG5.

The focus of UN joint work should also be on the most vulnerable and those most left behind. This will require more awareness of and attention to issues of intersectionality. The new sustainable development agenda also places greater emphasis on data that is disaggregated by sex, age and other factors as well as on the follow up and review of SDG implementation.

The presentations that followed addressed how UN entities are capitalizing on the adoption of the 2030 Agenda to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women within the context of key global summits and intergovernmental processes in 2016.

A. Gender Equality and Humanitarian Action

Presentation by Blerta Aliko, Gender and Humanitarian Advisor, UN Women

UN Women discussed the preparations it is undertaking to ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women features prominently on the agenda of the first **World Humanitarian Summit** to be held in Istanbul in May 2016. The Summit has two goals: to reinvigorate a global commitment to humanity, namely the millions of women, men and children caught up in crises; and to initiate a set of concrete actions that will enable countries and communities to better prepare for and respond to crises and be more resilient to shocks. A strong focus on gender equality and women's rights is needed to ensure that humanitarian actions benefit women and men equally.

UN Women has worked assiduously to ensure that a high-level roundtable on “Women and Girls – Catalysing Action to Achieve Gender Equality” is among the seven high-level roundtables being held at the World Humanitarian Summit. These roundtables are high profile opportunities for Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives of other stakeholders to pledge concrete commitments and announce bold actions to achieve the Agenda for Humanity.

The Roundtable on Women and Girls will be organized around three priorities:

- Women's leadership and participation;
- Gender-based violence and providing services with dignity; and
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights, building on the Every Women, Every Child Initiative.

The report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit, “One Humanity: Shared Responsibility”, together with the Agenda for Humanity, outline and ask all stakeholders – to act on five core responsibilities to deliver for humanity. These include: (1) political leadership to prevent and end all conflicts; (2) uphold the norms that safeguard humanity; (3) leave no one behind; (4) change people's lives and (5) invest in humanity.

The High-Level Leaders' Roundtable on “Women and Girls: Catalysing Action to Achieve Gender Equality” addresses Core Responsibilities Two and Three of the Agenda for Humanity. Core Responsibility Two calls on us to “uphold the norms that safeguard humanity, including eradicating sexual and gender-based violence and treat survivors with dignity” while Core Responsibility Three reminds us to “leave no one behind, including through empowering and protecting women and girls.”

Of particular relevance to the gender equality agenda are Core Responsibility areas 2, 3, and 5. This is an opportunity to link the humanitarian agenda to the Sustainable Development Goals as well as to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. UN Women is working to ensure that roundtable commitments carry over into other streams. It is equally important for other organizations convening roundtables at the World Humanitarian Summit to integrate and mainstream issues and commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women in their deliberations and proposed actions.

B. Habitat III Conference

In October 2016, UN Habitat will convene Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, one of the first global conferences following the adoption of the post-2015 Development Agenda. Habitat III will bring together diverse urban actors such as governments, municipal/local authorities, civil society, academia, and the private sector to discuss and chart new pathways to respond to the challenges of urbanization and to implement the sustainable development goals. The conference will generate a “New Urban Agenda for the 21st Century” that provides actionable recommendations for building inclusive safe cities and for ensuring equity, quality of life.

The preparatory process leading up to this conference has been a long one. Twenty-two Issues Papers and 10 policy papers on cross-cutting issues have been prepared by more than 200 experts on a number of topics related to housing and sustainable urban development (see <http://unhabitat.org/issue-papers-and-policy-units/>). Policy papers include independent recommendations of high-level experts and form the building blocks of the New Urban Agenda for the twenty-first century.

A series of regional and thematic meetings involving a wide range of stakeholders were also held and where priorities and policy recommendations for the New Urban Agenda were debated. The final declaration from these meetings will provide official inputs to the Habitat III process.

Inter-governmental negotiations on the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda will take place in New York from May to July. These negotiations will also be informed and accompanied by informal hearings with local authorities (16-17 May 2016) and civil society (6-7 June 2016).

C. Climate Change and COP 22

Presentation by Fleur Newman, Programme Officer, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

It was only in 2012 that issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women began in earnest under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process in Doha. It was significant because gender and climate change became a standing item on the agenda of the COP and secondly it mandated the UNFCCC secretariat to measure and report annually to the COP on the gender composition of delegations and bodies constituted under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol. This provides an opportunity to review and reflect on progress each year.

The next significant milestone, the Lima work programme on gender (2014), moved the discussion from concepts towards implementation. It emphasized the need to train and build the capacity of men and women on delegations on gender and climate change issues. Two workshops and a technical paper were mandated to strengthen understanding on gender-responsive climate policy. The first workshop focused on gender-responsive mitigation and technology development and transfer climate policies. The second workshop, planned for May 2016, focused on gender-responsive policy in the areas of adaptation, capacity building and training for delegates on gender and climate change issues. The UNFCCC secretariat also developed a technical paper on guidelines and tools for integrating gender considerations in climate action, which will be available at the May session.

Furthermore, there are now almost 50 references to gender, women, and socially responsible action in the decisions of the COP, Kyoto Protocol and subsidiary bodies. While these references mainly clustered around adaptation and capacity building, they also cut across all thematic areas. Another achievement in 2015 was that the UNFCCC secretariat provided information to the Parties, at their request, on its gender-related policies.

In 2015, UN Women, UN DESA and the UNFCCC secretariat convened an Expert Group Meeting, which resulted in a set of concrete recommendations that built on the first workshop on technology, mitigation and finance. One outcome of this collaboration has been to revise the guidelines on technology needs assessment to make them more gender-responsive. In December 2015, the Parties agreed to the Paris agreement, where the preamble acknowledges that Parties should respect, promote and consider obligations on human rights, including in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women. **This was the first time that a multilateral, environmental agreement has integrated human rights language.** Specific references to gender-responsive action are made with respect to adaptation (Article 7) and capacity building (Article 11). Gender equality language, however, was not included in articles related to climate finance and technology development and transfer. Though there was disappointment about the final placement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the preamble rather than in Article 2 (the operative purpose article), it still has power as an interpretive tool.

Over the next four years, work will continue on gender and climate change under the Convention and any successor to the Lima work programme. There is therefore an opportunity to make real the promise in the preambular text under the Paris Agreement, before it enters into force. The COP 22 in Marrakesh (November 2016) is significant because the Parties will review progress under the Doha decision and consider how to build on the Lima work programme.

Collaborative efforts will remain key to success going forward. Resources are a major challenge: there is no dedicated financing for gender. The UNFCCC secretariat is looking at non-traditional areas of financing as way to sustainable support work on gender equality and climate change. UNFCCC is also seeking collaborations with other UN agencies that are working on gender and climate change in their own mandates.

D. The Role of ECOSOC in the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda

Presentation by Marc-Andre Dorel, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UN DESA

The report of the Secretary-General on critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level was issued recently. It includes a number of practical recommendations to integrate the contributions of intergovernmental entities, within and outside the United Nations, as well as other stakeholders and platforms, into the global reviews taking place at the High Level Political Forum. Notably, the report states that gender equality and the empowerment of women should be included throughout the global review. The high level political forum (HLPF) will take place in July 2016 and convene Member States and other stakeholders for the global follow-up and review of progress on the SDGs. The negotiation process of the draft resolution on the review mechanism will begin soon.

In July this year, the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development will oversee national and thematic reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Forum is expected to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the Agenda's implementation and follow-up, addressing new and emerging issues.

At this juncture, the polarized and fraught nature of the inter-governmental negotiations was discussed. Despite the enormous, normative gains on gender equality and the empowerment of women made in 2015, the human rights of *all* women and girls are still being contested. Some Member States appear to be reopening the discussions on what "all" means, which threatens to exclude marginalized groups, such as LGBT communities, migrants, and non-citizens. A few delegations oppose reference to SDG 5 (perhaps due to its encompassing of sexual and reproductive health), while other delegations claim that not all SDGs can work for women and girls. Indeed, some delegations are insisting that the 2030 Agenda

should be considered as a whole in the follow-up and review process, while others appear to be “cherry-picking”. There is a danger that by breaking the agenda into silos many issues will be side-lined and vulnerable / marginalized populations groups left behind. Hence, reinforcing and emphasizing the indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda is vital. It is equally important to safeguard the indivisibility of the SDGs in the implementation of the 2030 agenda. Already, some Member States are inserting qualifying language in the implementation process such as “as nationally appropriate,” or “according to national capacities”. This kind of exceptionalism is very worrying as it undermines and fragments the 2030 Agenda.

Whatever the outcomes of the intergovernmental negotiations are, ECOSOC is focusing on maintaining the “spirit of the agenda” and ensuring that the normative space is not reopened. The Deputy Executive Director conveyed that UN Women and IANWGE rely on ECOSOC to support gender equality and the empowerment of women in the review and follow-up process. The UN system cannot afford to lose ground on the momentum achieved on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Meanwhile, there are several opportunities in the ECOSOC programme of work for promoting gender related goals and targets and advocating for a gender approach to all SDGs. The programme of work includes the following meetings:

- The **Youth Forum**, usually held in February, is the most important UN intergovernmental forum to involve youth on key development issues. The Inter-agency Network on Youth Development, which is to be co-chaired by UN Women, plays an important role in its preparation.
- The **Operational Activities Segment**, also held in February, provides overall coordination and guidance with a view to ensure that the UN development system is fit to deliver on the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. The review of the implementation of the QCPR where the collective inputs from agencies, including on gender takes place.
- **Special Meeting on Inequality**: Given the critical importance of "leaving no one behind", the ECOSOC President is convening a one-day special meeting on Inequality, on 30 March 2016. The Meeting will cover the multi-dimensional aspects of inequality, and policy responses at all levels to reduce inequalities within and between countries.
- **Partnerships Forum**: ECOSOC continues to be the gateway to the UN for non-state actors, providing a unique platform for governments, civil society, and the private sector to exchange ideas and forge partnerships. On 31 March, ECOSOC will convene its annual Partnerships Forum to discuss opportunities for leveraging partnerships for development.
- The **Integration Segment** (2-4 May) will bring together the inputs of Member States, the ECOSOC system, and the UN development system, to focus on the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The meeting will discuss how policy innovation and integration can support SDG implementation.
- The **Financing for Development Forum** will convene for the first time in May this year, in follow-up to Addis. There is space for including gender in these discussions.
- A **specific item on mainstreaming a gender perspective** into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system is on the agenda of the Council’s Coordination and Management Meeting (CMM) in June (1-3). The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming gender, which is prepared by UN Women, and will adopt a resolution. Usually, a

panel with several UN agencies presenting their experience on how a gender perspective is integrated into their work is organized.

- An annual **Forum on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs**, mandated in the Addis outcome document, will hold its first meeting in June.
- The **High-level Political Forum and High-level Segment** in July 2016 is the culmination of ECOSOC's annual work programme cycle. Working under the theme of "Leaving no one behind," the HLPF will begin the review of progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and provide high-level political guidance to Member States. The remainder of the High Level Segment will host the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), the high-level policy dialogue with the Bretton Woods Institutions, Trade and Development Organizations, and the thematic discussion on the proposed theme of sustainable infrastructure.

As ECOSOC begins its work to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the emphasis is on "shifting from commitments to results", with a view to mobilizing all actors to play their part in the transformation process that we all seek. During the Q&A that followed, the Deputy Executive Director suggested that UN Women lead on pulling together a think piece highlighting substantive and systemic issues on gender equality and the empowerment of women that would offer a conceptual framework for IANWGE to discuss at a retreat later this year. The think piece can identify entry points that build on UN entities' comparative advantage; consider thematic actions in the normative and inter-governmental space by building on UN operational activities, partnerships, knowledge, and advocacy.

Session 3: Operationalizing the 2030 Agenda on gender equality and the empowerment of women

This session, facilitated by UNDP, updated IANWGE members on the work around indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women within the context of the SDGs. Participants also had an opportunity to work in small groups to brainstorm strategies to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda holds real promise for transforming the lives of women and girls. It is transformative because it succeeded in breaking the silo on gender equality by mainstreaming these principles across many of the SDGs and it tackles structural issues such as unpaid work and sexual rights. Moreover, the goals are embedded in a framework that has been strongly endorsed by government and civil society. Unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the whole of the 2030 agenda must be implemented. There are several challenges ahead with respect to its localization and implementation:

- Governance and effective coordination of the inter-sectoral nature of the agenda at the national level;
- Embedding the global agenda at national level and in national action plans, including ensuring that governments mainstream gender across the sustainable development goals
- Financing the agenda in general and gender equality in particular and ensuring that resources are decentralized to sub-national levels
- Tracking and measuring achievements and gaps

Following this introduction, UN Women presented on monitoring the SDGs from a gender perspective. At this time last year, the UN Statistical Commission created an Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on SDG indicators, composed of twenty-eight Member States and regional and international agencies as observers. The IAEG was tasked to propose and develop a global indicator framework for the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The Statistical Commission at its forty-seventh session on 11 March 2016

will consider this framework. It is important to note that Member States have led this process with support from international organizations.

Overall, Member States are pleased with the global indicator framework and the initial list of indicators but some issues/ details within remain contentious, especially the issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The IAEG has discussed a set of 230 global indicators that will be used to follow-up and review progress at global level towards achieving the 17 SDGs. Further work to establish baseline data is needed, especially where data is not yet available, and as knowledge and data availability improve, the indicator framework will need to be refined. It is also expected that additional indicators for regional, national and subnational monitoring will be developed at regional and national levels.

A draft resolution has been prepared and the UN System has had an opportunity to provide inputs and comments. Once agreed (and at the time of this writing, all 230 global indicators have been agreed), the UN Statistical Commission will submit the global indicator framework to ECOSOC and the General Assembly for adoption.

Significant progress has been made at global level on gender statistics, with many new tools and technical resources available², including guidelines on producing statistics on violence against women. SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls has 14 indicators. At present, available data can be used to monitor about 20% (or 3) of these indicators. As is evident, many challenges lie ahead for the UN system when it comes to monitoring and measuring not only SDG5 but also other gender-related targets due to the scarcity of data and the lack of standards and measures in important areas (i.e. intersecting inequalities).

There are three, critical difficulties in the area of gender statistics: i) lack of coordination and weak policy space at national level; ii) technical challenges with national statistical systems, which limits the production of gender statistics; and iii) lack of access to data and limited capacity of policy makers and data users. Donors also place insufficient priority on gender statistics. There is a need to develop partnerships with the right stakeholders and to build capacity of both data producers and data users. UN Women's flagship programme on "Making Every Woman and Girl Count" seeks to improve national capacities on the production and use of gender statistics.

The discussion following the presentation highlighted the following key opportunities and challenges:

- The importance of strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and advocating for across-the-board sex-disaggregation, which can shed light on areas of intersectional discrimination and inequality. There is a target under SDG17 that addresses disaggregation. Guidelines are needed to operationalize it.
- The enormous potential of partnering with civil society and human rights organizations on the production of data, especially around politically controversial issues.
- Ensuring that no one is left behind ("we need to actually put the furthest behind first.")

Many participants expressed uncertainty about how the UN system can operationalize the principle of "no one left behind." A useful starting point is to consider how to go about reaching the last woman. In this regard, more efforts are needed to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics divisions as well as considering innovative sources of new data (i.e. big data) that are emerging. Outreaching and working with other stakeholders with access to hard-to-reach groups will also be critical. Data collection must also go beyond the household level to capture data at an individual level. While there is no straightforward

² Please refer to: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/gender/default.html>

way to do this, it is important to be vigilant about gender since other sectors that are driving the agenda may not be particularly gender-sensitive.

Participants were also struck by the limited number of indicators that can be measured and how much we do not yet know how to measure. Others emphasized that since many of the indicators speak to each other, a closer look at the inter-linkages was necessary not only to inform policy but also to inform the way UN agencies can work together and build on respective strengths.

Following the discussion, IANWGE participants were divided into four, breakout groups. Each group was asked to consider the following questions and to report back in plenary.

- What do you think about the means to implement SDG5? What aspect of SDG5 is needed to achieve mandates in other agencies?
- What part of that implementation can be done jointly, as the UN system, or individually, as an entity?
- How will entities mainstream gender in the SDG goal(s) relevant to their mandates and their operational work?
- How can IANWGE support agencies to do their work better? What is expected from this space/network?

What these discussions surfaced was that SDG5 cannot be implemented in isolation from the other SDGs. For example, though PAHO has developed a health sector strategy to support implementation of SDG3, what is now needed is internal advocacy that links the achievement of SDG 3 with the implementation of SDG5, as well as with other social determinants of health. Similarly, FAO has reviewed the SDG framework and has identified the specific goal/outcome areas that fall under its mandate. FAO has also incorporated many of the indicators in SDG5 in its programmes and is therefore contributing to SDG5 implementation.

IANWGE members concurred that work on issues of gender equality has often served as a pathfinder to collaborations in other intersectional areas and in other sectoral spaces. As a crosscutting issue, gender equality and the empowerment of women can help break down silos and mainstream gender in other spaces.

Participants also underscored the importance of including **process indicators**, especially for interventions with long theories of change, such as empowering women within the context of sexual relationships. Process indicators help ensure progress towards the achievement of outcome(s). Other types of indicators that are needed include measures of important principles of inclusion and participation, especially of other groups (i.e. indigenous women, women with disabilities) to ensure that no one is left behind as well as context – and country-specific indicators. Because many UN agencies work in similar areas, sharing data more widely is essential to avoid duplication.

As a network, IANWGE can support UN entities to mainstream gender in their respective goal areas as well as across other goals. The proposed ‘think piece’ on SDG implementation can draw on the comparative advantage of each entity to support harmonization on gender equality and the empowerment of women in the operational work of the UN system. Adapting the Delivering as One model to the gender-responsive implementation of the SDGs should be considered as an effective way to operationalize gender “intersectionalities” across the SDG Agenda. Consideration should also be given harnessing the potential of communications to get the word out, recruit new allies and reach new audiences. The Paris Agreement used social media effectively to create public awareness of climate issues. Participants also suggested that it would also be important to apply and adapt the lessons learned

from UN-SWAP implementation to the SDGs. IANWGE can also play a larger role in bringing gender perspectives in public spaces and discussions.

Session 5 and Session 6: Progress report on standing items and emerging issues

The first part of Day Two focused on a combined session where speakers reported on progress on standing items and presented on emerging issues of topical relevance. The purpose of these segments was to bring about a common understanding of the intersectionality of gender with these issues and to highlight potential areas of future inter-agency work. It was moderated by Aparna Mehrotra, OIC, Coordination Division, UN Women and Focal Point on Gender in the UN System. [Note: Though the summaries below do not follow the order in which these presentations were given, they abide by the structure of the agenda].

The latter part of the day was devoted to a brief presentation on the results of the 2015 UN-SWAP reporting and a consultation on the next generation UN-SWAP.

Standing items

A. Women, Peace and Security

Presentation by Paivi Kannisto, Chief, Peace and Security Section, UN Women

2015 was a major year for women, peace and security. There were three, high-level reviews on peace operations, peacebuilding architecture and WPS. The landmark global study on 1325 was an important part of the agenda for change. The Study provides a comprehensive body of evidence on the impact of women's participation on the effectiveness of all efforts for conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It also launched a rethinking of priorities with respect to women's participation and access to humanitarian services, economic recovery for families and communities, countering violent extremism, and outcomes of peace negotiations in order for the peace to take hold.

In October, during the High Level Review on the fifteenth anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2242 which addressed a number of substantive areas and provides a series of forward-looking recommendations.

- It established an Informal Expert Group on women, peace and security to ensure consistent information flows on the impact of conflict on women and efforts to secure their participation. The Security Council committed to hold more regular briefings with civil society, UN Women's Executive Director and the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, especially during country-specific considerations.
- It called for greater financing of the WPS agenda to address the critical funding gap for women's organizations and national gender machineries. It acknowledged the new Global Acceleration Instrument on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Engagement as an important tool to galvanize new resources, and invites donors to track their aid against gender targets.
- It introduced a new focus on countering and preventing violent extremism. UN Women has been asked to co-chair the task force on gender and violent extremism, which is linked to the Secretary-General's Seven Point Plan.

- It also called for institutional reforms to increase and align accountability frameworks of the UN system at many levels with the WPS agenda, including through the addition of gender targets as an indicator of individual performance in all compacts with senior managers at Headquarters and in the field.

The Global Study also addressed the situation of indigenous women in conflict and peacebuilding. In Colombia, for example, indigenous women have had difficulty accessing peace tables and being part of peace accords. In May 2016, at the ECOSOC segment on the topic of women, peace and security, the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples is organizing a panel on indigenous women and the women, peace and security agenda.

B. Gender and Youth in the Peacebuilding Agenda

Presentation by Cecile Mazzacurati, Peacebuilding Support Office, UN Secretariat

In 2015, a ten-year review of the UN's peacebuilding architecture was undertaken. One of the overarching findings of the review is that peacebuilding does not begin after conflict has ended but that it occurs during all phases of the conflict cycle – before, during and after.

In December 2015, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2250, a significant landmark, urging Member States to increase the representation of youth at all levels of decision-making. Young people have traditionally been viewed as a liability in fragile contexts rather than as an opportunity to strengthen peace. Youth-led organizations have worked hard to shift this understanding about young people and to ensure that the right investments are made.

Resolution 2250 was inspired by Resolution 1325, yet, ironically, it does not contain strong language on gender. Girls are not fully recognized in the resolution as some Member States are hesitant about the full participation of adolescent girls. Women's participation in the peace and security agenda still requires active measure, quotas, and temporary special measures. In addition, the Resolution defines young people, as individuals aged 18-29, which is not aligned with the UN definition of young people (15-24 years).

At CSW60, the Peacebuilding Support Office organized a side event on the complementarities between women, peace and security and youth and security. As co-chair of the Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding with Search for Common Ground, the PBSO issued a Practice Note on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding in January 2016 to inform policymakers and donors of strategic and programming considerations for supporting young people's participation in peacebuilding.

In terms of next steps, Resolution 2250 mandates a study on youth, peace and security. The Peacebuilding Support Office will lead this study with the support of UNFPA and the Secretary-General's Advisor on Youth. A concept note has been developed, which is open for inputs from UN entities and civil society organizations. The study will consider different themes, including young women's agency and participation, and different countries and aim to set a vision and agenda for the next 10 years. It will be presented in 2017 on the second anniversary of Resolution 2250 and will serve as a complement to the 1325 Global Study.

Some participants mentioned that it was important to consider youth along the lifecycle. There was also a question of whether any UN agency is looking at ageing populations in the context of peace and security. Women over 50 are often neglected in terms of programming and services.

C. Ending Violence Against Women

Presentation by Kalliopi Mingeirou, OIC, Ending Violence Against Women section/UN Women

Ending violence against women and girls is an important area for inter-agency collaboration and coordination given its complex, multidimensional and intersecting nature. The prevention and response to violence against women is beyond the remit of a single agency. Better UN coordination can therefore result in greater impact.

So far, the UN system has coordinated well around violence against women. The 2013 CSW agreed conclusions resulted in a strong outcome and a comprehensive roadmap to address violence against women and girls. The agreed conclusions acknowledged that the response to violence against women and girls needed to go beyond service provision; more work was needed in the area of prevention, of halting violence before it even occurs in the first place. As a result, the agreed conclusions provided the impetus for the UN system to sharpen thinking on EVAWG and to shape a more comprehensive and coordinated approach.

In 2015, there were two important inter-agency outcomes: the UN Framework for Preventing Violence Against Women and the launch of the Essential Service Package, a product of the Joint UN global programme on essential services for women and girls subject to violence. The UN Framework launched last November considers successful strategies to address root causes of violence. It aims to promote a common understanding on preventing violence against women in the UN system, policymakers and other stakeholder. It provides a theory of change to support action. It is now being implemented – inter-agency discussions continue and complement it with other global reporting initiatives.³

The Essential Services Package identifies the essential services that should be provided by the health, social services, police and justice sectors as well as guidelines for the coordination of Essential Services and the governance of coordination processes and mechanisms. Service delivery guidelines for the core elements of each essential service were also identified to ensure the delivery of high quality services, particularly for low and middle-income countries in which women and girls experience violence.⁴ These outcomes demonstrate the power of the UN system when it responds as one.

It was a big victory to have violence against women included in the 2030 Agenda and provides more opportunities for meaningful collaboration and coordination. Given the persistent challenges in the collection and analysis of data on VAW, it is essential for UN agencies to build capacities of national statistical offices. Invite UN agencies to build capacities on national statistical offices not only on data collection methods but also on ethical standards.

Presentation by Aldijana Sisic, Chief, UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and Campaign Manager, UNiTE

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the Secretary-General's UNiTE to end sexual violence campaign represent true areas of inter-agency collaboration and coordination.

The UNiTE campaign has served as a platform where the UN system has been able to *advocate as one* on the issue of violence against women. It has successfully kept the issue high on political agendas. The Orange your day campaign, which takes place on November 25 each year, has been a huge success in

³ A copy of the framework can be found at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/11/prevention-framework>

⁴ Additional information, including the electronic version of the Essential Services Package is located at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2015/12/essential-services-package-for-women-and-girls-subject-to-violence#view>

terms of creating a space for civil society to engage and give visibility to the issue. It has been an effective platform for raising awareness of governments, civil society, and communities on preventing violence against women and girls and has helped to mobilize resources and generate programmes.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against women (UNTF), administered by UN Women on behalf of the UN system, is a global grant-making mechanism exclusively dedicated to addressing violence against women and girls in all its forms. Since its establishment, it has awarded USD 116 million to 426 initiatives in 136 countries and territories. The UNTF has been instrumental in supporting the uptake of the UNiTE campaign by asking applicants to the Annual Call for Proposals to link their initiatives explicitly to the priority outcomes of the campaign.

This year, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women will launch its 20th funding cycle and invite civil society organizations and governments to apply for funding under the three programmatic areas outlined in the UN Trust Fund Strategic Plan (2015-2020): (i) primary prevention; (ii) implementation of laws, policies and national action plans; and (iii) access to multisectoral services. Proposals will also be accepted under the “special window” for transit countries addressing violence against women and girls in the context of the current refugee crisis and under the “by invitation only” category, which extends support to existing grantees of the Fund. A Programme Advisory Committee, made up of 21 agencies at regional and global level, is charged with reviewing proposals. In 2016, the UN Trust Fund plans to double its grant giving to \$20 million and will be looking to ensure that women constitute 50% of the leadership of applying organizations. It was also stressed that UNCTs must ensure that UNDAFs not only link violence against women to the 2030 agenda but also as part of the human rights obligations of Member States (i.e. CEDAW).

Presentation by Matteo Pasquali, UN Office on Drugs and Crime

Echoing previous presenters, UNODC acknowledged that the issue of EVAW has brought together the UN system in a true collaborative and coordinated manner. A two-pronged approach is needed to prevent violence and to support survivors with essential services.

UNODC focuses on ending impunity for violence against women and prosecuting perpetrators. It integrates gender dimensions and the issue of violence against women into its efforts to build the capacity of criminal justice systems. Gender-based violence is a growing phenomenon where UNODC has built significant expertise. A 2013 Global Study on Homicide found that women are overwhelmingly killed by intimate partners or family members and murder rates are on the rise.

In resolution 68/191 on taking action against gender-related killings of women and girls, the General Assembly expressed its alarm that violence against women and girls is among the least punished crimes and urged Governments to strengthen national legislation and policies to punish, prevent and eradicate violent gender-related killing of women and girls. In 2014, UNODC convened an intergovernmental expert group meeting on gender-related killings of women and girls. A General Assembly resolution followed and mandated a global study on gender-based killings in response to the need for better analysis and to end impunity and adopt more appropriate measures to counter violence against women.

Trafficking of refugees and migrants, another form of violence against women and girls, is also high on the agenda of the Security Council. In December 2015, the Security Council convened for the first time on the issue of human trafficking in armed conflict, calling on Member States to hold accountable those engaged in these human rights violations. In September 2016, the UN will convene a high level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants.

D. Update on CEDAW

Presentation by Saori Terada, Adviser for Gender Integration, OHCHR

OHCHR provided an update on the work of the CEDAW Committee in 2015 as well as discussed the issue of sexual rights as an emerging issue in the human-rights discourse.

The CEDAW Committee convened three sessions: the 61st session from 6 to 24 July 2015, the 62nd session from 26 October to 20 November 2015, and, most recently, the 63rd session from 15 February to 4 March 2016. At these sessions, the Committee considered 27 country situation reports and issued concluding observations.⁵

The CEDAW Committee also adopted two general recommendations. In July 2015, the CEDAW Committee adopted, by consensus, General Recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice. This General Recommendation is particularly relevant for SDG16 on In the General Recommendation, the Committee identifies six interrelated components of justice systems that are essential for ensuring women's access to justice and recommends to States parties how to ensure these components and eliminate discriminatory procedures, practices as well as stereotyping within justice systems.

The Committee also adopted General Recommendation No. 34 on rural women by consensus. The General Recommendation stresses that in many countries, rural women's specific needs are not adequately addressed in laws, national and local policies and budgets. They remain excluded from leadership and decision-making positions at all levels, are disproportionately affected by negative stereotypes, gender-based violence and insufficient access to basic social services and resources.

Another two general recommendations are in the pipeline. The Committee is working on updating the General Recommendation 19 on VAW. It participated in a public symposium on international and regional approaches in tackling violence against women and a private expert group meeting organized by the London School of Economics in February 2016.

The Committee is drafting General Recommendation on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change. The first reading of the draft will take place at the Committee's 64th session. In February 2016, the Committee held a half-day of general discussion on this topic. It looked at women and men different vulnerabilities in relation to the impact of disasters and climate change such as extreme weather events including droughts and flooding, and their consequent impact on food security, agricultural productivity, livelihood, water availability, sanitation, health and safety, and discussed mitigating strategies.

General Recommendations produce soft law by interpreting articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. UN agencies can use the legal analysis to integrate gender equality and empowerment of women into their respective SDG(s).

In November 2015, the Committee convened a panel discussion, "Connecting CEDAW and the women, peace and security agenda," to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and to underline the importance of the Committee's GR No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations.

A CEDAW/UN Women Working Group, renamed the CEDAW/UNW/SDGs working group, explored ways in which the Committee can engage in the follow-up and review of a proposed indicator on non-

⁵ Countries include: Bolivia, Croatia, the Gambia, Haiti, Iceland, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Namibia, Portugal, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

discriminatory legislation for measuring progress towards SDG target 5.1 on gender equality. The working group engaged with UN Women's Chief of Research and Data Section on a proposed indicator on non-discriminatory legislation for measuring progress towards SDG target 5.1 on gender equality, as well as with the Deputy Executive Director on the possibility for the CEDAW Committee to engage in the follow-up and review of such an indicator.

E. Corporate Evaluation of UN Women's Contribution to United Nations System coordination on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Update by Priya Alvarez, UN Women Independent Evaluation Office

UN Women's Independent Evaluation Office thanked IANWGE members for taking part in the evaluation as well as provided an update on the corporate evaluation of UN Women's contribution to UN system coordination on gender equality and empowerment of women. In 2015, the Independent Evaluation Office commissioned Univeralia to assess the relevance, effectiveness and organizational efficiency of UN Women's UN system coordination mandate at country, regional and global levels and to consider the extent to which a human rights-based approach and gender equality are integrated in the implementation of this mandate.

The evaluation was particularly significant given that UN Women's coordination mandate is new in principle. The lessons learned from implementing this mandate will inform UN Women's next strategic plan. It was inspired by systems thinking and feminist theory. It was important for the evaluation to understand how UN Women operates inside hierarchical structures and how it has attempted to open the UN system in ways that can foster and bring about transformative change in gender power relations within this context.

Overall, while there has been good progress made, additional efforts are needed to demonstrate concrete results and shared accountability for gender equality and empowerment of women across the UN system. Of particular relevance, the evaluation found that the UN-SWAP has been a very effective mechanism; though there is limited competition in that space. To ensure and enhance its sustainability, the evaluation recommended that the framework be institutionalized in the structures of other entities. On IANWGE, the evaluation found that achieving greater clarity in the mandate would be essential for enhancing the participation and engagement of its members.

Emerging Issues

F. Global Migration

Presentation by Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women
[Note: Though Ms. Puri was unable to give this presentation during the IANGWE meeting, her office shared her remarks. Below are her key points and messages.]

Women make up approximately half the 244 million international migrants worldwide. Migrants can contribute to sustainable development processes in their communities of origin - both by sending financial remittances when they are away, and by bringing back the skills acquired abroad when they return.

Women and girls on the move, however, have specific needs, priorities and rights to protection of their dignity that are not being addressed in full. This is nowhere more evident than in the context of the current crisis in the Mediterranean. Response planning, services, protection capacity and information are inadequate to meet the needs of women and girls and to address their distinct vulnerabilities. In spite of this, policy making continues to neglect adopting a gender and age differentiated approach, and migrant

women's rights and human development aspects are not adequately integrated into national, regional and international development strategies.

In 2016, UN Women is chairing the inter-agency Global Migration Group, placing it in a strategic position to advocate for a human rights-based, gender sensitive approach to migration. The Global Migration Group brings together 18 entities⁶ to encourage and strengthen coherent, comprehensive and coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. As gender focal points, IANWGE members were encouraged to connect with the global migration group focal point in their respective organisations in order to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in migration programmes and projects.

In 2016, the Global Migration Group will engage in three intergovernmental processes and other key forums:

- At the 60th Commission on the Status of Women, the Global Migration Group is organising a side event on “Policies Empowering Migrant Women and Girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” in partnership with the Global Forum for Migration and Development. UN Agencies, Member States and civil society are also organizing an additional 9 events on the issue of migration during CSW.
- The Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants on 19 September 2016 will provide an important and critical moment to promote the rights of women refugees and migrants. UN Women, as the Chair of the Global Migration Group, will assist Member States in their preparations for this high level meeting by organizing four interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings with expert panels. UN Women will advocate for a strong gender perspective in the Secretary-General's Report that is under preparation and in the Summit itself.
- As Chair of the Global Migration Group, UN Women is working closely with the Global Forum for Migration and Development, a state-led, inclusive and consultative process open to all States that are Members and Observers of the United Nations. UN Women is promoting the integration of gender in the work of the GFMD roundtables and thematic meetings leading up to the GFMD Summit in December 2016.

The Global Migration Group is also working towards countering the negative and prevailing discourse on migrants, which demonizes and links migrants with conflict and violent extremism. As gender actors and advocates, the international community must mitigate and reduce the risks associated with the migration of women and girls. It is also imperative that the labour and human rights of migrants, both women and men, are safeguarded at all stages of migration. Women who already suffer from gender-based discrimination should not suffer from a second level of discrimination based on their country of birth.

G. Women and girls with disabilities

Announcement by Leyla Sharafi, UNFPA and Maribel Derjani-Bayeh, UN Women

Women with disabilities experience multiple forms of discrimination, stigma and prejudice due to the intersections of gender, disability and other factors. Practices such as forced or coerced sterilization and abortion, limited or denied access to contraception, pregnancy and childbirth without assistance are some

⁶ FAO, ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNODC, UN Regional Commissions, UNU, UN Women, WB, WHO

examples of the rights violations of women and girls living with disabilities. Yet, they are often at the margins of the work on gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as on disability inclusion and rights.

UNFPA announced that a working group on women and girls with disabilities of the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (IASG-CRPD) had been established. It brings together 11 UN entities (ESCWA, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, SCRDP/UN DESA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNRWA and UN Women). A call was made to constitute an informal working group of IANWGE members on gender and disability to link with the IASG-CRPD in order to better ensure that the needs and priorities of women and girls with disabilities are addressed in specific initiatives, such as the High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment.

UNFPA also informed participants of the WE DECIDE: Young Persons with Disabilities programme, an initiative that seeks to ensure equal opportunities and life free of violence for persons with disabilities. Access to sexual and reproductive health services, information and education for young people living with disabilities, including preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence are at the center of the programme. It has a strong gender component through its focus on women and girls living with disabilities; it also seeks to include young people living with disabilities in the design and implementation. The programme is multi-sectoral collaboration with governments, other UN agencies, in particular the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disability; the Committee on the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; civil society organizations, donors and foundations and academic institutions.

H. Sexual Rights

Presentation by Saori Terada, Advisor on Gender Integration, OHCHR

OHCHR noted the real push back in international fora against sexual rights. Member States who oppose sexual rights are the ones who are most vocal and organized. OHCHR has also observed a tendency of some Member States to pick and choose aspects of women's human rights that they support. For example, a Member State may support reducing maternal mortality but not women's access to abortion or contraceptives/family planning services. Already however, rights such as freedom from violence, the right to bodily integrity, and the right to choose one's sexual partner are recognized in international human rights documents and in national legislation.

As an emerging area, the UN must give some thought as to what it can do to address sexual rights. The discourse on sexual rights needs to shift beyond conduct and be framed within the wider discourse on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Sexual rights need to be seen as an integral part of human rights for *all* and as part of the leaving no one behind agenda. OHCHR and UNFPA have available tools to push for a more rights-based discourse on sexual rights. There is also a Women's Human Rights app that provides easy access to relevant, international legal instruments as well as agreed language on women's human rights.

I. Countering Violent Extremism

Presentation by Anne-Chris Visser, Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)

Women can enable, support, and be victims of violent extremism. Emerging and disturbing trends show the steady involvement of women and girls in extremist groups: 550 European women have travelled to join Da'esh (ISIS). Within extremist groups, women can play different roles. They are trained in female brigades to interrogate, control and monitor other women or serve in comfort roles to extremists waging

war/violence. Several thousand others have been abducted, trafficked, sold into sexual slavery, rape, tortured and murdered.

Violent extremism frequently targets women and girls, leading to grave human rights violations and abuses against them. Women's inclusion is therefore a vital component of any comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy. In September 2015, CTED organized, for the first-time ever, an open briefing on “The role of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism. Women’s rights activists from Iraq, Nigeria and Kenya shared their testimonies with the Committee to raise the awareness of Security Council members on strategies and actions they were taking to counter violent extremism.

In March 2016, CTED organized an open briefing for the UN membership on “The Effective Adjudication of Terrorism Cases” to inform Member States about the efforts of CTED in this area and to raise awareness of the a) key role that judges play in implementing counter-terrorism measures and promoting counter-terrorism cooperation within a rule of law framework and b) the need to support judges in their efforts to adjudicate terrorism cases. Amongst the entire panel of judges invited, there was only one female judge. Both the UN and Member States needs make a greater effort to include more women on panels.

To date, most Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism have been gender neutral or gender blind. Security Council Resolution 2242, adopted in October 2015, however, not only strengthened CTED’s mandate, but also provided the Committee with new tools to speak to Member States about mainstreaming gender in counter-terrorism work. In a recent assessment visit to Kenya, CTED was able to use the resolution to raise gender-related issues, including the need to engage women in decision-making processes, with high levels of government and security forces. Resolution 2242 also enables a stronger relationship between CTED and UN Women vis-à-vis advancing the women, peace and security agenda.

More progress is needed to mainstream gender in the mandate and work of CTED, which remains a very male-dominated environment. A Task Force for this purpose has been set up.

J. Joint communications and advocacy

Presentation by Nanette Braun, Chief, Communications and Advocacy, UN Women

Women Watch (<http://womenwatch.unwomen.org/>) is a joint communication platform, managed by UN Women, which showcases the work of the UN system on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Women Watch platform has nearly 150,000 followers on social media. In 2015, the site was redesigned and now allows users to filter search results by thematic area. As Women Watch is a curated news and events platform, IANWGE members are encouraged to use the platform to cross-post their news, multimedia products and events on it. In addition, the UN Women website hosts the UN system coordination library (<http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/un-system-coordination/library>) to which IANWGE members are encouraged to contribute their knowledge products.

UNDG has made important strides to develop and promote joint communication strategies that are anchored in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. There is increased coordination on communications at country level. More and more, the UN system is rightly seeing communications as part of programme work and as essential for program delivery. UN entities and country teams should continue to engage with UN communications group.

UN entities should also work with their respective headquarters communications teams. As communication experts, they are able to create and give visibility to the gender equality issues and the

work being done to address them. Headquarters communication teams should also be encouraged to cross-promote content from Women Watch as well as other high-level or joint initiatives platforms on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

K. Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment

Presentation by Patricia Francis, Interim Lead Coordinator of Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment and Meg Jones, Chief, Economic Empowerment Section, UN Women

In January 2016, the Secretary-General formed the first-ever High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment to provide leadership and mobilize commitment and concrete actions aimed at closing global economic gender gaps. The High level Panel intends to put women's economic empowerment at the top of the international agenda and will provide recommendations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to improve economic outcomes for women and promote women's leadership in driving sustainable and inclusive, environmentally sensitive economic growth. It will also highlight key actions needed to achieve the new targets and indicators in the Sustainable Development Goals that can be taken by governments, the private sector, the UN system and other stakeholders to realize the economic empowerment of women.

The Secretariat is housed at UN Women. Its role is to give strategic direction to the High Level Panel by looking at the whole agenda and narrowing it down to actionable items where it can have big impact. The panel will produce two reports for the UN Secretary-General, the first one will be presented at the General Assembly in September 2016 and the second will be delivered in March 2017 at the 61st Session of the Commission of the Status of Women. The reports will draw on rigorous evidence and broad-based consultations to highlight good practices and provide action-oriented recommendations.

A draft background paper will be prepared that will establish the key parameters and issues. Initial research areas that have been identified include the informal sector, where women are disproportionately clustered, unpaid care work, and agriculture.⁷ The work of the High-Level Panel will also be informed by a series of global and regional consultations with key stakeholders aimed at better understanding what has worked, and as importantly, what has not worked to empower women economically in different parts of the world.

The first meeting of the High Level Panel was held on 15 March 2016 during CSW60. A second meeting will be held in Costa Rica in July to coincide with regional consultations in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Another consultation is planned in Southern Africa, possibly in Tanzania, and will be organized through UN Women's regional office in Kenya. The Secretariat is seeking a university partner to host this dialogue. The HLP Secretariat will also take part in the ILO annual meeting in June, which brings together the tri-partite group. In this context, UNEP mentioned the opportunity of the UN Environment Assembly being held in Kenya in May as another forum of engagement, and where gender issues are integrated throughout the conference agenda.

In June, the High Level Panel will review the research that has come in and begin drafting the first report, which will be delivered to the Secretary-General at the 71st General Assembly in September 2016. Building on the findings of the September report, the High Level Panel will prepare a flagship report to be

⁷ Postscript: After reviewing a wide range of topics at its inaugural meeting in March 2016, Panel members endorsed a focus on six major issue areas: (i) eliminating legal barriers to female economic empowerment; (ii) addressing the care economy; (iii) reducing gender pay gaps; (iv) expanding opportunities for women who work informally; (v) promoting financial and digital inclusion for women; and (vi) fostering female entrepreneurship and enhancing the productivity of women-owned enterprises.

presented in March 2017 during the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It will identify key actions each stakeholder can take to move the agenda on women's economic empowerment forward. CSW61 will also be used as a platform to bring leaders, government and private sector, to make high-level commitments. From March – September 2017, the Secretariat and the High-Level Panel will focus on political advocacy and broad-based dissemination of key messages.

The Secretariat is keen to bring the voice of the UN system into the panel. IANWGE can support this effort by:

- Identifying strong academics/researchers in different parts of the world, especially from the Global South who can contribute to knowledge on this topic;
- Providing feedback on the larger initiative and sharing what and how each organization is addressing women's economic empowerment on a specific platform established on www.empowerwomen.org. UN agencies were encouraged to share their experiences, initiatives, good practices and resources.
- Reach out to networks, partners and constituents to engage in the various meetings/consultations taking place;
- Inform the Secretariat and High Level Panel about entities' Calendar of Events to help identify other fora for engagement. Write to sghlp@unwomen.org.

More information can be found at: <https://www.empowerwomen.org/en/who-we-are/initiatives/sg-high-level-panel-on-womens-economic-empowerment>

Following Ms. Francis' presentation, the Chief of UN Women's Economic Empowerment Section facilitated a discussion among IANWGE participants to seek input for how UN agencies can feed into consultative processes. Some participants requested further clarity on the conceptual framework for women economic empowerment in order to better understand how to engage and contribute to this agenda.

There is much research and several existing good practices on women's economic empowerment. It is important to understand why governments are not acting on this evidence or replicating these good practices to catalyse concerted and focused action on women's economic empowerment. Women's economic empowerment needs to be seen as more than just income generation. Integrated approaches are needed that promote macroeconomic policies, which prioritize social spending, create decent jobs, incentivize women's economic participation, and reduce the gender wage gap. Public investments in infrastructure and essential services not only reduce costs related to work outside the home and time spent on unpaid care and domestic work but also contribute to women's increased incomes and broader economic and social development.

Procurement is an area where the UN System should identify avenues for incorporating gender. This point was flagged by both the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the UN Global Compact. For example, in Kenya, the government put in place a procurement policy, which targets 30% of its awards to companies owned by women, youth and people with disabilities. As a result, millions of dollars have been directed to these groups. There was a suggestion to convene a Task Force on Gender Equality and Procurement and to develop guidelines for mainstreaming gender in procurement policies and processes.

IANWGE members expressed great interest in engaging with the high level initiative on women's economic empowerment. Participants emphasized the need to consider the role of gender-responsive public service delivery and access to information in "open formats" as enabling factors of women's economic empowerment. Some agencies indicated their interest in having the Secretariat make a brief

presentation of the HLP on Women's Economic Empowerment at their annual meetings. The Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples, for example; flagged its interest in working on 2-3 policy recommendations to ensure that indigenous women are included as part of the agenda.

UN Women also encouraged IANWGE members to use the targets that their respective agencies are accountable for delivering on as a hook to link to this agenda and to help make that linkage for Member States, so that as an international community we can deliver on women's economic empowerment. To maintain momentum, UN Women, in its capacity as Secretariat and as part of its coordination mandate, offered to convene an ad hoc group of agencies that could come together each month via teleconference.

Session 7: System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Co-presented by Monica Dyer and Sara Callegari, Coordination Division, UN Women

The presentation shared system-wide performance results with respect to UN-SWAP reporting. In 2015, 64 entities reported, a slight increase over the previous year. Preliminary results indicate that the UN system is making progress. While survey analysis shows an increase in the ratings in the meeting and exceeding categories, the rate of progress is insufficient to meet the 2017 targets. More worrying is the decelerating rate of progress.

UN Women also presented an analysis of ratings by performance indicators. The UN system, as a whole, saw impressive gains in the indicators related to policy and plan, strategic planning and knowledge generation and communication. Eight entities have committed to developing or implementing gender policies in 2016. This is particularly significant as gender policies and plans are one of the strongest drivers of change. Entities with gender policies outperform those without by good measure. The poorest performance areas for the United Nations system continue to be in resource allocation, gender architecture and parity and capacity assessment.

The next part of the presentation highlighted projections by indicator to identify areas where targeted assistance is needed. Entities were encouraged to develop similar individual performance projections.

In 2016, UN Women's Coordination Division will participate in the new working group on the Gender Marker with the Finance and Budget Network; it will launch an introductory e-course on the UN-SWAP, building on the success of the "I Know Gender" on-line course; and it will develop an e-learning course on the gender marker with a module on coding.

UN-SWAP 2.0

The second half of Session 7 focused on the development of the next generation UN-SWAP (UN-SWAP 2.0). Tony Beck, an independent consultant, led and facilitated the discussion.

Member States have asked the United Nations system for strengthened accountability measures on gender equality results at normative and country levels. To respond to this, the next generation UN-SWAP (UN-SWAP 2.0) will need to maintain a focus on institutional strengthening but also better link and articulate three key areas of accountability (corporate, country, results) as well as better reflect the diversity of the UN system. It will aim to align with and link to the Gender Scorecards used by UN Country Teams as well as to the results in the SDG framework. The main challenge is how to make this linkage, given that most SDG indicators are high level and are the primary responsibility of Member States to achieve.

Two options were placed under consideration:

- The first option is to shift from a “meets” to “approaches” requirement and to develop new “meets” and “exceeds” indicators linked to the SDGs.
- The second option suggests maintaining the current indicators but reorganizing them into mainstreaming and results indicators and developing a new set of indicators on results/SDGs.

The discussion that followed debated the merits and shortcomings of each approach.

On the whole, participants were not in favour of Option 2. Participants felt that while it was critical to bring results into the UN-SWAP, one needed to be careful about the language used. For example, to use “meets” under indicators would be misleading, as it would indicate that SDGs have been met. One suggestion was to do an analysis of the indicators and to produce indicative outcome statements for each indicator so that it can be appropriately measured.

Others found that Option 2 would only be relevant to UN Programmes and Funds or agencies that have adopted Results Based Management approaches and exclude other UN entities. There was also a question about the availability of tools that are able to measure the link between mainstreaming and results.

Both PAHO and UNDP reported that their agencies have invested considerably in institutional strengthening and organizational change respectively but it is not yet clear if these changes are yielding the intended results. On gender parity and resource tracking, UNDP has made little progress. Organizational culture, they have found, can often act as a barrier. On the one hand, the UN-SWAP aimed to be transformative, yet it has reinforced existing hierarchies by placing too much focus on senior managers rather than strengthening horizontal linkages.

On the reporting side, many IANWGE members have found the process to be very positive. It has succeeded in generating a discussion between gender focal points and senior management, helping them to think outside the box vis-à-vis meeting performance indicators. IANWGE members have also valued the peer review process with the UN coordination team, which has allowed them to think more critically in some areas.

There was also a brief discussion if UN-SWAP self-reporting by each entity should be made public. On the positive side, public reporting can generate more interest, incentive (competition), and pressure on management to strive for better performance and results. Public reporting also creates an essential benchmark against which progress is measured and promotes greater transparency and accountability.

In terms of possible disadvantages, there was a concern that public reporting might inadvertently create a disincentive to report on results accurately. Already, donors are channelling more resources to agencies that are doing better on gender mainstreaming. Some participants also raised the issue that technical agencies might also be left behind. It was suggested that an external review accompany public reporting by bringing in an external reviewer to reinforce the peer review of UN-SWAP reports conducted by the coordination team. Transparency is very important.

The formulation of UN-SWAP 2.0 is on-going and IANWGE members will have other opportunities to contribute further to the process.

Session 8: Closing session

Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, Lakshmi Puri, re-joined the meeting to hear back from participants on their key take-aways and two priority areas that IANWGE can take up in 2016 to advance and accelerate the implementation of gender equality and empowerment of women commitments in the 2030 Agenda.

Summarized below are the main points:

1. There was acknowledgement that work on gender equality and the empowerment of women is challenging. Entities must continue to think about how they will drive the agenda within their own institutions as well as in partnership with other UN agencies to remain “fit for purpose”.
2. Gender equality and women’s empowerment are critical pathfinders to working on other intersectional issues such as disability and indigenous peoples. IANWGE can use its platform to connect with other networks to ensure a gender perspective.
3. There was widespread support for the convening of an IANWGE retreat to take stock of gender mainstreaming in the UN system and to focus on ways to accelerate the implementation of the gender equality and empowerment of women commitments in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. IANWGE members supported the idea of developing a think piece to be used as an input to the retreat as well as for inter-agency advocacy. The think piece should also contain a section on the working methods of the network.
5. There was acknowledgement that progress has been made under the UN-SWAP. IANWGE members appreciated UN Women’s leadership and guidance and have valued the collaboration through the peer review mechanism.
6. Though UN-SWAP 2.0 will be more challenging, it should be scaled up more globally with a view to introducing it to ministries, government departments and private sector partners.
7. There was a recommendation to form a Task Team on Women, Girls and Disability and to link this group to other processes taking place.

Participants also shared their feedback on the meeting. Overall, it was very positive. Many members find value in such meetings as they help create a sense of community and for UN entities that are not New York-based, these meetings break the isolation and disconnect that they feel when working on gender issues. Such meetings also provide a forum where members can formulate and sharpen their arguments for gender mainstreaming as well as exchange and learn from other entities’ experiences and challenges and explore potential opportunities for collaboration.

Members voiced appreciation for the more interactive, participatory nature of the agenda as well as its flexibility to accommodate important presentations, such as the one given on the High Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment. It was important for members to understand where and how to engage in this process.

Some members felt that the agenda was overloaded. To mitigate against this in future, one suggestion was to think of ways to communicate and share information throughout the year with IANWGE members. Regular updates would allow for the possibility of having more focused discussion on a smaller number of topics/themes.

In closing the fifteenth annual IANWGE meeting, UN Women’s Deputy Executive Director thanked members for their participation and the rich, substantive discussions held over the two days. The IANWGE Secretariat promised to give consideration to convening, periodic virtual meetings throughout the year. She also urged IANWGE to continue its strategic thinking on how it can lead the UN system to break down silos and to work in a more integrated way to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is important to communicate the “how of gender mainstreaming” to support Member States

and UN country teams to localize and implement the SDGs in a gender responsive manner. She reiterated once again the “big opportunity moment” that UN agencies have to capitalize on the normative gains made in 2015 on the gender equality and the empowerment of women agenda and the important role of IANWGE to contribute to the implementation of SDG5 and to lead on gender mainstreaming of the SDGs overall. She also looked forward to each focal point sending their ideas about two strategic issues that IANWGE can take up and collaborate on in this next year.

Annex 1: Agenda

IANWGE Fifteenth Annual Session
10-11 March 2016, New York
Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Office Conference Center
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120, New York, NY 10017 USA

Day One: Thursday 10 March 2016

09:15-09:30 – Opening Session

09:30-11:30 – Session 1: Dialogue with UN Women Executive Director (120 minutes)

Chair: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, *Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women*

Vice-Chair: Lakshmi Puri, *Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women*

Objective: To take stock of progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women (GEEW) in the UN system and identify common challenges and potential solutions requiring interagency and/or UN Women partnership and support.

Guiding questions:

Within the context of the SDG implementation, focal points may wish to focus on:

- a) Gender relevant key accomplishments in 2015 and
- b) Challenges in addressing gender mainstreaming in the work of their entities and in engendering SDG goal/s of relevance to them
- c) Political advocacy, coordination and technical support required from the UN system and UN Women in particular

Methodology: Tour de table with UN entities (*3 min each*) followed by discussion with the ED of UN Women.

Output: Identification of clusters of challenges and possible inter-agency/UN Women support to address them.

11:30-11:45 – Coffee Break (15 minutes)

11:45-13:15 – Session 2: Gender in key intergovernmental debates in 2016 (90 minutes)

Chair: Ms. Lakshmi Puri, *Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women*

Objective: To assess past normative achievements and plan for upcoming key international meetings and debates (e.g. World Humanitarian Summit, Habitat III, Climate Change, 1325 Global Study, ECOSOC reform) in order to coordinate joint messaging on GEEW to best influence such processes.

Guiding question:

Given that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda is a historic opportunity to advocate for GEEW, how are your respective entities capitalizing on this agenda to advance GEEW within the context of key intergovernmental processes?

Key Discussants:

- World Humanitarian Summit – Blerta Aliko, *UN Women*
- Habitat III – Yamina Djacta, *Director of UN-Habitat NY office*
- Climate Change – Fleur Newman, *UNFCCC*
- "ECOSOC and the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda" – Marc-Andre Dorel, *Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination*

13:15-14:00 – Lunch Break (45 minutes)

14:00-16:30 – Session 3: Operationalizing the 2030 Agenda on GEEW (150 minutes)

Moderator: Raquel Lagunas, *UNDP*

Objective: Share and update on GEEW-related indicators within the context of the SDG applicable to your entity.

Key Discussant:

- Papa Seck, *Chief Statistician, Research and Data, UN Women*

Methodology: Presentation on GEEW indicators, followed by an open discussion on the way forward for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Output: Strategies for the UN system to support SDGs implementation.

16:50-18:30 – Session 4: Unconscious Bias Workshop (UN Women Conference Room: HQ/19-19) (100 minutes) Note the change of venue.

Day Two: Friday 11 March 2016

09:15-10:15 – Session 5: Progress report on standing items (60 minutes)

Moderator: Aparna Mehrotra, *OIC, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women and Focal Point for Women in in the UN System*

- Women, Peace and Security - Global study on the 15th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 – Paivi Kannisto, *Chief Adviser, Peace and Security, UN Women*
- Gender and Youth in the Peace Building Agenda – Cecile Mazzacurati, *PBSO, UN Secretariat*
- Violence against Women – Kalliopi Mingeirou, *Policy Specialist, Ending Violence against Women, UN Women*, Matteo Pasquali, *UNODC Liaison Office*, and Aldijana Sisic, *Chief, United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women*
- CEDAW update – Saori Terada, *Adviser for Gender Integration, OHCHR*
- Evaluation – Priya Alvarez, *Evaluation Specialist, UN Women*

10:15-10:30 – Coffee Break (15 minutes)

10:30-12:00 – Session 6: Emerging Issues (90 minutes)

Moderator: Lakshmi Puri, *Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women*

Objective: Updates on issues of emerging and topical relevance, e.g. migration, disability, indigenous issues, sexual rights, violent extremism, including areas of joint collaboration, such as joint advocacy and communications.

Guiding question: What are the opportunities to mainstream gender into the emerging issue in question?

Key Discussants:

- Migration – Lakshmi Puri, *Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women and Chair of the Global Migration Group (GMG)*
- Disability – Leyla Sharafi, *UNFPA and Maribel Derjani-Bayeh, UN Women*
- Sexual rights – Saori Terada, *Adviser for Gender Integration, OHCHR*
- Violent extremism – Anne-Chris Visser, *Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)*
- Joint Advocacy and Communications – Nanette Braun, *Chief, Communications and Advocacy, UN Women*
- Women’s Economic Empowerment – Patricia Francis, *Interim Lead Coordinator of Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment* and Meg Jones, *Chief, Economic Empowerment, UN Women*

Methodology: Presentation and discussion in break out groups lead by key discussants.

The key discussants are requested to present UN Women with two potential questions they would like answered by the Working Groups.

Output: Common understanding of the intersectionality between gender and selected emerging issues and a roadmap for future interagency work in these areas.

12:00-12:45 – Lunch Break (45 minutes)

12:45-15:45 – Session 7: UN System Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) (90 minutes)

Chair: Aparna Mehrotra, *OIC, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women*

Objective: To present the results of 2015 UN-SWAP reporting and to engage IANWGE members on the next generation UN-SWAP (including for results and links with SDGs).

Key Discussant: Tony Beck, *UN-SWAP Consultant*

Methodology: Presentation followed by plenary discussion

Output: Progress on development of the next generation UN-SWAP, including relevant synergies with SDG framework and other accountability frameworks (e.g. WPS).

14:00-14:15 – Coffee Break (15 minutes)

14:15-15:45 – Session 7 (Continued): UN-SWAP (90 minutes)

15:45-16:30 – Session 8: Closing Session (45 minutes)

Chair: Lakshmi Puri, *Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women*

Objective: Solicit feedback from IANWGE members on the annual meeting and the way forward.

Key takeaways from the annual meeting

Looking ahead to 2017:

- Dates for 16th annual session of IANWGE in 2017
- CSW-61 Priority and Review themes

CSW61 Priority theme is GEEW in the *Changing the World of Work*

CSW61 Review theme: *Progress in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”*

Annex 2: List of Participants

	Entity	Name	Title/Office
	CEPAL/ECLAC	Ana Ferigra Stefanovic	Programme Officer, Gender Affairs Division
	DESA	Valentina Resta	Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer
	DESA	Kenza Kaouakib-Robinson	Senior Sustainable Development Officer Focal Point for Natural Disasters / Focal Point for Gender
	DESA	Chandra Roy-Henriksen	Chief, Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
	DESA	Mirian Masaquiza	Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
	DGACM	Sandra Chukwudozie	Consultant
	DPA	Cecile Van Manen	Policy and Mediation Division, Mediation Support Unit
		Solveig Knudsen	Policy and Mediation Division, Mediation Support Unit
	ECOSOC	Marc-Andre Dorel	Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination
	ILO	Kevin Cassidy	Senior Communications and External Relations (NY Office)
	ITC-ILO	Benedetta Magri	Senior Programme Officer International Labour Standards, Rights at Work and Gender Equality
	ITU	Kadiatou Sall-Beye	Project Officer, LDCs UN Liaison Office
	OHCHR	Saori Terada	Advisor for Gender Integration
	UNCDF	Veena Krishnamoorthy	Consultant

	UNDP	Raquel Lagunas	Senior Policy Advisor on Gender Mainstreaming
	UNEP	Janet Macharia	Senior Gender Advisor
	UNFCCC	Fleur Newman	Programme Officer and Gender Focal Point
	UNFPA	Leyla Sharafi	Gender and Youth Specialist
	UN Global Compact	Ursula Wynhoven	Chief Legal Officer, Chief, Governance and Social Sustainability
	UN-HABITAT	Yamina Djacta	Director, NY Office
	UNICEF	Patty Alleman	Senior Gender and Development Specialist
		Noreen Khan	Gender Specialist
		Isabelle Chazal	Human Resources Planning Specialist
	UNIDO	Hedda Oehlberger-Femundsenden	Gender Coordinator, a.i.
	UNIDO	Claudia Linke Heep	Industrial Development Officer and Gender Focal Point
	UNIDO	Paul Maseli	Director and UNIDO Representative to the UN & International Organisations
	UNIDO	Amalia Berardone	Project Management Specialist
	UNODC (NY Office)	Matteo Pasquali	Programme Management Officer
	UNRWA (NY Office)	Jasmin Reitzig	Representative
	UN Secretariat	Cecile Mazzacurati	Peace Building Support Office
	WHO/PAHO	Anne Coates	Chief, Gender and Cultural Diversity
	WIPO	Elena Ponte	Legal Intern
	Secretariat of High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment	Patricia Francis	Interim Lead Coordinator, UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment
	UN Women	Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka	Under-Secretary General and Executive Director

	UN Women	Lakshmi Puri	Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director
	UN Women	Aparna Mehrotra	OIC, Coordination Division and Focal Point for Women in the UN System
	UN Women	Paivi Kannisto	Chief Adviser, Peace and Security
	UN Women	Nanette Braun	Chief, Communications and Advocacy
	UN Women	Blerta Aliko	Gender and Humanitarian Advisor
	UN Women	Kalliopi Mingeirou	OIC, Ending Violence Against Women
	UN Women	Papa Seck	Policy Specialist
	UN Women	Priya Alvarez	Evaluation Specialist
	UN Women	Aldijana Sisic	Chief, UN Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence Against Women
	UN Women	Meg Jones	Chief, Economic Empowerment Unit
	UN Women	Sharon Taylor	Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist
	UN Women	Michele Ribotta	Coordination Advisor
	UN Women	Tony Beck	UN-SWAP Consultant
	UN Women	Shivangi Shrivastava	Consultant
	UN Women	Ghada Jiha	Consultant