



Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality

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

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The thirteenth annual session was chaired by Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women. Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women participated in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Network.

The agenda items to be considered by the IANWGE included intergovernmental priorities for 2014 and 2015 that deserve system wide attention as well as key coordination issues related to the UN system's work on gender equality and women's empowerment. Intergovernmental priorities covered the 58th session of CSW, including emerging issues and challenges towards the agreed conclusions. The discussion highlighted the importance of the acceleration of the MDG's implementation as well as on the need to identify lesson learnt from this process to inform the definition of the new development framework. The discussion around the post 2015 development agenda underscored the centrality of women's rights, women's empowerment and gender equality in the process as well as in the outcome, and the opportunities for the Network's future engagement. A special call was made for the entities to support negotiation beyond the gender goal to ensure that gender is mainstreamed across all goals. On the review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action during the upcoming CSW59 in 2015, UN Women advised that it will focus on effective and accelerated implementation of the BPfA identifying areas of progress and current challenges and opportunities. The Network was also updated on the one year campaign of commemorative events on the twelve critical areas of concern and on opportunities for the Network's engagement. Regarding the twenty year review of the ICPD as mandated by General Assembly resolution 65/234, UNFPA advised that they conducted a review of the implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action using quality data and analysis of the state of population and development and taking into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues.

Items related to the key inter-agency coordination issues included: a Briefing on the second year of implementation of the system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN-SWAP); the Issues Brief on Gender Mainstreaming in Development Programming to be launched the UN Women, as the first guidance produced on gender mainstreaming at the programming level since 2002, and an update on the status of the gender basic course which will be rolled out in April 2014. The Network recommended to UN Women to bring the Gender Mainstreaming Brief to the attention of the interagency coordination mechanisms and acknowledged the production of the long-discussed course.

For the follow up to inter-sessional activities, summary of progress reports were shared virtually by the chairs of the Task Forces and leading agencies on the Standing Agenda Items. During the session, the IANWGE decided on continuation or dismissal of the task forces.

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Part I. ANNUAL SESSION

Opening session

The session was opened by Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women and Vice-chair of the Network. In her remarks, Ms. Puri emphasized the importance of intergovernmental negotiations taken place during the 2014 and 2015, including CSW 58 and 59, the MDG's 2015 target, the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs; ICPD beyond 2014 and Beijing+20 reviews; and the fifteenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). These intergovernmental processes are crucial opportunities for the UN system to position gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment prominently on the global agenda, both as important ends in themselves and as essential to peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. This was confirmed during the discussions of the Open Working Group, with an overwhelming support of Member States for a two-pronged approach to reflecting gender equality and women's empowerment in the SDGs: through a stand-alone goal and mainstreaming gender equality into all areas of the post-2015 agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms. Puri stressed the post-2015 development agenda should tackle inequality at its roots causes and explicitly addressing many of the critical issues that were omitted in the MDG framework, including the need for transformation in gender relations; violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based wage discrimination, women's disproportionate share of unpaid care work, limited asset and property ownership, and unequal participation in public and private decision-making. Ms. Puri highlighted the IANWGE had shown to be the principal setting for gender equality related interagency dialogue, policy review, effectiveness and coherence and called on the membership to continue to promote gender equality to be a central priority area that addresses the structural barriers that hold women and girls back from realizing their rights, as well as to provide technical support to Member States in the definition of gender-sensitive targets and indicators across all potential goals of the development framework in the post 2015 era. The Network had also an important role to play in ensuring robust accountability mechanisms and transparency, to monitor progress and hold decision-makers accountable.

1. Intergovernmental priorities for 2014 and 2015 that deserve system wide attention

a. 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Network was briefed by Ms. Puri on the status of the 58th session of CSW, taking place in New York from 10-21 March 2014 and focusing on "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls". The brief included emerging issues and challenges towards the agreed conclusions, and opportunities for the Network's support to the process. The discussion also highlighted the importance of the acceleration of the MDG's implementation as well as on the need to identify lesson learnt from this process to inform the definition of the new development framework.

Development partners, including the UN system, have recognized the MDGs as a truly historic undertaking which provided a common vision, galvanized action at national and international levels and led to many innovative partnerships, all of which contributed to achieve remarkable progress. Yet, there are important areas where efforts must be improved if the MDGs are to be achieved. The proposal on the draft agreed conclusion of CSW centered on human rights language that approached gender equality and women's empowerment issues in a holistic way, and including the issue of discrimination and inequality in the context of status of race, age, ethnicity, etc. In the ongoing discussions, some contentious issues have been raised by Member States which could not only prevent the consensus

building of the CSW agreed conclusions 2014 but also set a negative precedent in the way forward on several intergovernmental fronts.

Contentious issues remained, inter alia related to human rights, sexual and reproductive rights and health and diversity. Also, comprehensive sexuality education is a really difficult issue. Other difficult areas are economic, including financing, domestic resources, development assistance as well as macroeconomic issues like crisis, trade and climate change and how these issues affect gender equality. Despite the contentious issues, discussions have been respectful and generated a positive atmosphere in favor of reaching the needed consensus and with the right balance in the text. Accountability and north – south cooperation were highlighted as important issues that needed to be strengthened and also means of implementation figured prominently.

The Network was invited to be vigilant to ensure that in efforts to accelerate MDG achievement, the UN system invests in addressing gender inequality and promoting women's rights and empowerment across all goals and priorities.

The CSW-58 discussions and outcome would set the grounds for what Member States identify as the key challenges for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, which would inform and guide both the UN system' efforts and the broader UNDG's framework for MDG acceleration. As the MDGs are likely to become the baseline for SDGs, realizing ambitions will depend on the Network's capacity to influence the process over the next couple of years, including the issue of multiple discriminations that prevent women from fully enjoying human rights, including the right to development.

On the process towards CSW, participants also highlighted the importance of the regional meetings as a good practice that contributes to building consensus and also as an opportunity to brief and relate to regional constituencies. Entity specific meetings that mobilize particular constituencies are also very important in particular to mainstream gender in areas traditionally considered as gender neutral, i.e. MDG-8. For example, the Geneva dialogue on the post 2015 has shown to be strategic in defining strategies to advocate for the inclusion of the gender dimension of trade into the new post 2015 development goals. At headquarters, it is also very important to lobby and sensitize Permanent Missions and Representatives to the gender equality priorities. Such preparatory work has contributed to the support for the inclusion of a gender equality goal and the mainstreaming of gender equality perspectives into all goals and targets of the post 2015 development framework.

On the way forward participants were called to continue to focus on securing a stand-alone goal and on the targets and indicators under this goal and across all goals. This is greatly helped by providing the evidence to make to right case for specific aspects to be included, defining their content, quality and scope. For furthering this work the UN system can benefit from the existing data but also jointly contributing to the data revolution so to ensure that targets and indicators are gender responsive drawing on what has been agreed by the UN Statistical Commission and the experience of the GENDERNET and the OECD. The OWG will come up with a very crucial report in the coming months that will inform the report of the Secretary-General. In turn the SG report will be an input in the intergovernmental decisions on the focus themes as well as on goals and targets. This is why the support from the UN system, including at the country and regional levels, to Member States is very critical at this juncture to contribute to the report of the OWG.

b. Post 2015 Development Framework: update and way forward

John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, briefed the Network on the current status of the current discussions on the post-2015 agenda, on the outcome of the

Open Working Group and in particular Session 8 which focused on equality including gender equality and women's empowerment; and on what UN entities would need to do to take this discussion forward and support Member States as they formulate the new development agenda. A particular call was made for the entities to support negotiation beyond the gender goal to ensure that gender is mainstreamed across all goals. Also, entities were invited to reflect on the lessons learned from the MDGs to inform the development of the new post-2015 agenda and the SDGs as well as to support the identification of data for the establishment of the respective baselines.

The presenter highlighted that discussions were generating an increased consensus among Member States. Areas of consensus included: a. the need for a new post-2015 agenda which is transformative, universal and rights-based, with equality, including gender equality at the heart of the new agenda; b. the need for stronger institutions, governance, and accountability to deliver real change for women and girls; c. the recognition that, in order to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, gender equality should be integrated across all new goals and targets, including in the broader development context for the realization of gender equality, such as the impact of economic crises, persistent conflict, climate change, and environmental degradation.

From the fact-finding sessions of the Open Working Group, 19 areas of consensus were identified and available in the Co-Chairs document on [Focus Areas](#). Other areas of consensus include: poverty eradication as the objective of the new development framework; the importance of completing the MDG agenda; the need for a transformative change; and the call for a single set of goals that bring together the development and the environmental agendas. Member States are also calling for the "unfinished MDG business" to be addressed in the new development framework, including key issues such as gender equality and women's empowerment. In this regard, the CEDAW Committee and the OWG issued statements calling for women's rights to be incorporated in the post-2015 agenda, including through a standalone goal on gender equality and the mainstreaming of gender in all other goals that may be developed. With regard to the stand along goal, ending violence against women and girls, equal access to education and employment opportunities and equal pay for equal work, ending all forms of discrimination against women of all ages, ensuring equal participation of women in decision-making, equal access to assets and resources, and promoting gender equality policies are among the suggested areas for consideration.

Mr. Hendra also stressed remaining contentious issues, including the ongoing discussions on how the new development agenda would address human rights, governance and rule of law, and peace and security, as well as on how to address climate change in light of ongoing negotiations under the UNFCCC towards a 2015 universal agreement. Specific human rights issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, and sexual orientation and gender identity also remain very contentious, and so was the discussion on how to extend the development partnership beyond the traditional donor - recipient country relationship to include stronger private sector engagement.

In sum, while it seemed likely that there will be a dedicated gender equality goal, and some degree of gender mainstreaming throughout the new framework, it was still unclear how transformative the goal itself and the targets and indicators included under other priority goals, would be. Therefore, the Network should continue to advocate for the transformative goals, targets and indicators, including in issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, unpaid care, inheritance and women's equal access to and control over land and other assets. While the stand-alone goal on gender equality continues to be critical, the mainstreaming of gender into all other 18 goals, including in issues such as food security, water and sanitation, energy, infrastructure, climate and means of implementation, continues to be critical as it is the definition of the respective targets and indicators.

The Network was also invited to work collectively, to: a) ensure that the data revolution is a gender data revolution, including through the roll out and use of the 52 standard indicators for gender equality, and the 9 standard indicators for measuring violence against women, that have been agreed by the UN Statistical Commission; b) actively engage in the broader ongoing debates - about universality, about how to address governance, peace and security, and in particular human rights, and about how to converge the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda and have one set of goals that apply to all countries, but that can be adapted to national circumstances; c) contribute to the MDG acceleration effort and a final push to MDGs for women and girls; d) bring together and leverage advocacy at CSW 58 and CSW 59, in the process of developing the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda, and in the Beijing +20 review and the ICPD review to maximize the synergies between these processes; and e) ensure coherence and “fit for purpose” entities to better support Member States to deliver the new agenda, and in particular the commitments made on gender equality, women’s rights and women’s empowerment.

Participants stressed that the post 2015 development framework needs to have the following tenets.

- The universality of education as building block for inclusive societies.
- Women’s access to productive resources and decent employment.
- Greater access of women to financial means and services. Microcredit is marginalizing women to marginal activities. How to address the gender gap on access to financial means and grant large scale investments. Also, women’s entrepreneurship was highlighted as critical especially in the context of job shortages and the stagnation of economic growth.
- Maternal mortality which has not been reached within the MDG context. The linkages between health and development must be clearly addressed in the new development agenda.
- Women’s access to communication and information technologies. The post 2015 is an opportunity to ensure women are digitally literate.
- Multiple factors of discriminations to be addressed explicitly, including women with disabilities, indigenous women, migrant women, LGBT women.
- Broader inequalities that negatively impact women and supporting the use of disaggregate data on sex and other grounds of discrimination.
- Food security and nutrition, water and infrastructure.
- The gender responsive data revolution as a means to ensure that disadvantaged women are not left behind.
- Gender concerns into the environmental areas and moving from diversity to management and addressing the need for evidence based data for sustainable development.
- Women’s equal opportunities in conflict and post conflict settings and fragile states. The gender dimensions of the peace and security agendas should also be at the basis of the new development agenda.

Participants highlighted that despite the increasing consensus in relation to the stand alone goal and the need for mainstreaming gender equality across all goals, the quality, content and scope of both entails a complex process of negotiations that will culminate in a decision by Member States. UN entities shall

follow up closely the negotiations and support Member States throughout the process. Yet, participants asked UN Women to propose a strategy to facilitate mainstreaming gender across all goals.

On the indicators side, UN Women clarified that statistical briefs are being prepared on all 19 focus areas and should be available by April. Nevertheless, at the moment the co-chairs do not want to discuss indicators but goals and targets and their recommendation is that indicators are moved to the statistical commission.

On the issue of defining “fit for purpose entities” participants stressed that the underlining question is how UN entities are better able to integrate the inclusive growth with the social and environmental dimensions of next development agenda; and how do UN entities generate the conditions to grant broad consultation on decision making, as well as enhance programme work at the country level, including through defining a strategy to address demands and concerns that have arisen from the broad post 2015 consultations. There is also a need for further work to ensure coherence and complementarity within the development and the humanitarian agendas. This will entail that UN entities support member states in delivering on the new gender equality commitments, ensuring that there is much better accountability for the UN Work on gender equality, including at the country level and through the resident coordinator system and UNCTs. In this regard, participants recommended continuing to implement the UN SWAP but also start advancing the accountability towards impact or development results.

“Fit for purpose” also implies that UN entities are able to use the available system-wide data as a basis to build the case and justification for the inclusion of gender equality perspectives into all policies and programmes. Members of the Network should support Member States in applying the Statistical Commission’s 52 gender equality indicators and the 9 indicators on violence against women as a means to generate the needed baselines. There were also calls for caution due to the uneven availability of data within countries. Therefore it would be important to strategize on how to go forward in supporting national statistical offices in generating an integrated approach.

UN entities’ support should be built on the existing agreed human rights standards instead of pushing for new agreed language. UN entities would also need to deal with the conflict between universal indicators and targets and how to apply them in heterogeneous realities with different baselines, which is more than a technical constraint. The Regional Commissions were emphasized as entities that could contribute to this purpose.

c. Twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing + 20)

The session was addressed by Ms. Satu Lassila, Senior Advisor of UN Women. Ms. Lassila stressed that almost twenty years after its adoption, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action remained a landmark normative agreement and the defining policy framework for progress towards gender equality and women’s rights. Yet, it also remained an unfinished agenda that required political recommitment and accelerated implementation from a system-wide multi-sectoral approach with the active engagement of the IANWGE. The confluence of the Beijing + 20 process and the process towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the elaboration of a post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals (SDGs) provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to position gender equality and women’s empowerment front and center on the global agenda.

Consultations and Reviews. In terms of knowledge production and strengthening of the evidence base, the Beijing+20 process involves a series of extensive consultations and comprehensive assessments of progress made and identification of remaining gaps and challenges, at national regional and global level. With the launch of the process in July 2013, comprehensive national-level reviews have already started. UN Women together with the UN Regional Commissions had issued a Guidance Note to

member states for preparation of national reviews to allow examining challenges, identifying key gaps in implementation, priorities and specific timelines. Submissions are expected from Member States by 1 May 2014. Also, multi-stakeholder regional meetings and consultations will be convened to identify regional trends and cross-country analysis in the implementation of the Platform for Action which will provide critical inputs to the post-2015 discussions. In addition, UN Women will carry out forward-looking global review that builds on the work and insights from national and regional reviews and creates political momentum for gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda. The review process will culminate in March 2015, when the Commission on the Status of Women will undertake its appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Communication and Advocacy Campaign. In terms of the enhanced social mobilization, awareness-raising and revitalized public debates, UN Women has developed a year-long campaign in support of the organization's overall strategy. With a special focus on social mobilization and gradually building over the course of 2014, the campaign will run under the title "Empowering Women – Empowering Humanity: Picture It!" and engage a wide range of constituencies on Beijing's overall theme of women's empowerment and gender equality. The campaign will be a call to action, with a strong focus on visuals and imagination, inviting to engage in the conversation, to imagine a world in which gender equality and women's empowerment has become a reality, and discusses existing gaps.

Global Thematic Events. In partnership with the UN System, member States and civil society, a series of the global thematic events organized and coordinated in relation to the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform of Action aiming at sharing lessons learnt on their implementation and identifying opportunities for improvement and scaling up. The events will be organised in a way that strengthens the evidence-base, increases knowledge of the challenges and focuses on solutions. The emphasis should be on accelerating the implementation of the internationally agreed commitments including the BPfA and the MDGs. In order to have impact, the participation in the events will be at a high political level, including Ministers and Heads of Agencies. The outcome of the events can be formulated as Calls for Action, focusing on the most urgent gaps in the implementation of the BPfA. A calendar of possible events was distributed.

In terms of the political outreach, UN Women will organize a Global Leaders' Summit on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment to take place during the high level week of the General Assembly in 2015 in New York and bring together global leaders from all regions. The Summit will be structured as a 'pledging event' where participants from different sectors will highlight key areas of work and make commitments to further action and funding. Pledges can for example take the form of a constitutional amendment, legal reform or legislative proposal, special measures, funding or a new programme or initiative that will contribute to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment at the national, regional or global levels.

Participants welcomed the strategy and expressed interest in joining UN Women on the different activities related to the commemoration as well as briefed the network on the processes that have already been put in place within the different entities as part of the Beijing + 20 commemoration. Discussions focused mainly on clarifications with regards to the IANWGE engagement. On the substance, participants focused on defining the linkages between the review and the post 2015 development processes. Participants agreed it was important to be tactically oriented through defining key messages and substantive support to be provided jointly to ensure coherence between the two processes. The different reviews already in place would allow the identification of key priorities for implementation to inform the post 2015 process. With regard to the outcome documents from the regional level, there was clarification that in some cases (ESCWA, ESCAP) the outcome documents could be negotiated with the regional inter-governmental bodies and could serve as guidance to

Member States in their gender equality work and policy making for the next years. Civil society engagement should continue to further inform assessments of progress and gaps at the national level.

On the commemorative events on the twelve critical areas of concern or on cross – cutting issues such as aging, indigenous women, women with disabilities, etc., it was clarified that it would make sense to capitalize on events and activities already in the pipeline. New events can also be discussed. The events are to be jointly organized by interested entities on a cost sharing basis. The proposed calendar is to be revised and complemented by the IANWGE. Regional and country offices should be involved. UN Women is approaching DOCO to propose a joint communication from the undg Chair and the UN Women Executive Director informing resident coordinators and UNCTs on the commemorative strategy and mobilizing their support. On the way forward, dedicated inter-sessional meetings will be organized to further the discussions on the inter-agency coordination on the preparations and outcome of the commemorative activities, including the reviews and the events on the twelve thematic areas.

d. ICPD 2014 and beyond

Mr. Luis Mora, Chief of the Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch of UNFPA provided an update on the ICPD beyond 2014 review process. The review responses to General Assembly resolution 65/234 on the Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 which called upon UNFPA, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with relevant partners to undertake an operational review of the implementation of the Plan of Action (PoA) on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development and taking into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues.

The review has consisted of a series of interrelated activities, including: a global survey, country consultations, regional reports and review conferences, thematic global conferences and expert group meetings. These included the Global Youth Forum in Bali, Indonesia (December 2012; and the ICPD Review International Conference on Human Rights, organized by UNFPA, OHCHR and the Government of the Netherlands in Noordwijk, the Netherlands (July 2013). A technical meeting, with selected partner countries, on Women's health: rights, empowerment and social determinants was also held in Mexico City in September 2013 to review existing evidence and information on ways to accelerate progress towards universal access to an integrated package of core sexual and reproductive health services, and towards protection of girls' and women's human rights, including reproductive rights.

To ensure coordination, coherence and leadership of ICPD Beyond 2014 review, Mr. Mora noted the very good collaboration with a number of stakeholders within the UN system. Particular attention was drawn to the regional reviews facilitated by the four UN Regional Commissions (ESCAP, ECLAC, ESCWA, and ECA) which resulted in very useful regional reports and outcomes. All of the outcomes of the regional reviews reinforced the importance of the principles of freedom and equality in dignity and rights as well as non-discrimination.

Mr. Mora noted that the global review drew on analysis global survey outcomes, regional conferences Outcomes, thematic conferences, expert group meeting; data and analysis from peer-reviewed sources and related inter-agency processes. It was also noted that ICPD B2014 Review results point to a framework of actions that organizes the wide array of issues covered in the POA into five thematic pillars for the purpose of ensuring a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to action beyond 2014 – sustainability; healthy; place and mobility; dignity and human rights; governance and accountability.

With regard to the cross-cutting issue of equality and human rights, the report recognizes progress achieved in international and regional human rights since ICPD yet gaps remain in the equitable application to all persons. The review clearly underscores the unfulfilled realization of equality in income, wealth, educational attainment, health, or opportunity.

Key areas requiring further action were also highlighted. For example, as it relates to dignity and human rights, there is a strong need to address increasing wealth and income inequalities; gender equality and women's empowerment that remains unfulfilled; invest in lifelong learning, and building human capabilities – especially for young people; and eliminate discrimination and marginalization.

In terms of next steps, the review will continue during the 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development (7-11 April 2014). This will be preceded by a High-Level Interactive Debate on 4 April. The Commission will consider the ICPD Review Report, including recommendations on the way forward and the Secretary General's Summary ICPD Review Report. The Commission is expected to produce an Index Report of key issues for implementation identified in the session.

The special session of the General Assembly on ICPD beyond 2014 will take place on 22 September 2014. The General Assembly will have for its deliberations the above-mentioned reports as well as the Index Report from the Commission on Population and Development. It is expected that the ICPD Beyond 2014 review findings, conclusions and recommendations will feed into the Post-2015 development framework. Member States are still undecided on the outcome of the review process.

2. Key inter-agency coordination

a. Second year of implementation of the system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN-SWAP).

Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, UN Women Senior Advisor on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, briefed the Network on the implementation of the system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women (SWAP).

Several updates on implementation of the UN -SWAP were presented. Through advocacy and reporting, the UN-SWAP has received continued inter-governmental support. For example, ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2013/16 adopted in July 2013: Welcomed the rollout of the [UN-SWAP] and “Requests the United Nations System to enhance and accelerate gender mainstreaming ...including by continuing to roll out the System-wide Action Plan and reporting on progress made in its implementation, including on entity-specific remedial action plans...”. Through the UN-SWAP the UN System has a strengthened network for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as is illustrated by a growing network of over 200 UN-SWAP Focal Points and decentralization of responsibility for improved performance in this area.

UN Women is also leveraging existing UN inter-agency networks (UNEG, Strategic Planning Network, etc.) to promote strengthened accountability for gender equality and women's empowerment as well as increased harmonization of reporting. For example, in 2012/2013, UNEG Norms and Standards on evaluation were translated into effective guidance to support significant improvement; the UNRIAS Chair contacted all members regarding reporting on the UN-SWAP which fed into significantly improved reporting; and development and support for gender markers will be discussed at the Finance and Budget Network of the HLCM in June 2014. Lastly, targeted assistance has been provided for strategic performance areas of the UN-SWAP. For example, in 2013, UN Women supported 6 entities with the development of new gender policies; inter-agency workshops were held on the topics of gender

markers and gender policy development; an introductory e-course on gender has been developed by the UN Women Training Centre and will be rolled-out in spring 2014; a capacity assessment tool for gender equality and women's empowerment is also under development; and guidance has been developed for Peer Reviews.

Highlights of preliminary 2013 UN-SWAP Reporting Results were also presented. Sixty-two entities (90 per cent) of required entities submitted reports for 2013. This is an increase of 7 entities from 2012. Encouraging progress made between 2012 and 2013: the United Nations system meets or exceeds requirements in 42 per cent of ratings on performance indicators in 2013 vs. 31 per cent in 2012, an increase of 11 percentage points. The number of missing ratings has decreased from 17 per cent in 2012 to 13 per cent in 2013. Progressive improvement in performance between 2012 and 2013 was achieved for 14 of 15 indicators. Areas of particular growth include: gender responsive auditing (increase of 57 percentage points for meeting or exceeding requirements); knowledge generation and communication (increase of 18 percentage points); performance management (increase of 17 percentage points); and programme review (increase of 17 percentage points). The performance indicator on organizational culture is the only indicator which witnessed a decline in performance: 37 per cent met or exceeded requirements in 2013 vs. 49 per cent in 2012. This decline was due to a stricter application and understanding of requirements for 2013. Although progress is encouraging, systematic efforts still required for the UN System to meet/exceed requirements by 2017. Full analysis of 2013 UN-SWAP reporting will be included in the Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system to be submitted to ECOSOC in June 2014.

Participants welcomed the preliminary results presented and praised the UN-SWAP for propelling progress in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women and generating commitment and responsiveness from all levels. In this context, participants noted that the letters from UN Women's Deputy Executive Director to heads of UN entities on the topic of UN-SWAP reporting results for 2012 were of great assistance in the areas of knowledge sharing and advocacy. Additionally, reviews of submissions by the UN-SWAP Help Desk were noted as a helpful practice in order to ensure accurate and authentic responses are being developed from within entities. Leveraging existing UN-SWAP networks to improve performance and achieve harmonized reporting was also noted as a good practice. For participants, the networking exercises associated with the implementation of the UN-SWAP have greatly contributed to progress across the UN system.

Also, participants suggested that UN Women provide guidance to entities, including good practices, of models of decentralization for responsibility for improved performance. In this regard, some entities have established the "business owner" model for different performance indicators so that responsibility does not rest solely with gender units and focal points. It was also suggested that clear links or correlations in reporting results be made. For example, if performance in the area of organizational culture increases will we see increases in gender parity? UNFPA and OHCHR volunteered to provide peer support. ILO volunteered to support peers on reporting and conducting gender audits. UNEP requested peer support on the development of the gender marker.

a. UN Women's recent substantive work on gender mainstreaming: Issues brief on Gender Mainstreaming in Development Programming

Ms. Sylvie I. Cohen, former UN Women's Senior Adviser on Gender Mainstreaming presented UN Women's work on gender mainstreaming: an international technical meeting and its report as well as the new issues brief on the matter. An international Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on '[Approaches to Gender Mainstreaming in Development Programming: Being Strategic and Achieving Results in an Evolving Development Context](#)' (click to access the report) was convened by UN Women in early 2013,

benefitting from substantive contributions from international gender experts, gender specialists from the IANWGE and the UNDG Task Force on Gender Equality, and selected UN Women thematic and country-level experts. The EGM was an opportunity to consolidate state-of-the-art inputs on technical and organizational advances in gender mainstreaming in programming practice across multiple development organizations, sectors and themes. On the basis of the meeting's specific and forward-looking recommendations on gender mainstreaming in the context of a changing development context and the articulation of a post-2015 global Development Agenda, UN Women prepared an Issues Brief in 2013 on how to better integrate gender equality at country level in national development policies, strategies and programmes and thematic sectors. With examples derived from recent programming practice in various sectors, the Brief provides general principles for implementing gender mainstreaming at the country level. It unpacks the types and substance of decisions on gender equality programming to be made at each step of national programming cycles, when national laws, policies, budgets, statistics, service delivery are being developed, operationalized and/or assessed. Artificial distinctions between what and what is not gender mainstreaming are de-emphasized; a context-specific, flexible and inclusive approach to gender mainstreaming strategies is proposed, based on a more-operations-oriented and on-going gender analysis. A programme approach to gender equality policies and programmes within sectors is promoted, using a human-rights approach and incorporating the latest tools such as gender statistics and indicators, results-based management and gender-sensitive budgeting. Institutional and organizational changes that enable programming practice to become to more gender-responsive are also outlined. The Issues Brief will be issued in 2014.

Participants welcomed the Issues Brief, recognizing its relevance and value-added for improving the positioning, implementation and impact of gender mainstreaming in development programmes supported by UN agencies in their respective programme countries. IANWGE participants also shared the challenges they continue to face within their agencies. Participants suggested that the Issues Brief be officially endorsed by the UNDG senior leadership to increase its chances to be applied throughout UN operations

b. I Know Gender: An Introduction to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for UN Staff

Ms. Clemencia Muñoz-Tamayo briefed the Network on the status of the basic gender course: I Know Gender: An Introduction to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for UN Staff which aims to develop and/or strengthen understanding and awareness of basic concepts of gender equality and women's empowerment for all staff at HQ and at the regional and country levels, and promote behavioral change and the integration of a gender perspective in everyday work. It will be rolled out by UN Women starting on April 2014. The basis course responded to a long standing demand from IANWGE and was developed under the leadership of UN Women for the UN system. IANWGE members have contributed substantively at different stages of the design of such course. The Brief is also response to the UN – SWAP requirement on capacity building.

UN Entities could develop their own version of the course and UN Women would provide assistance in supporting this within its capacity. The course includes a capacity assessment tool that measures the level of knowledge before and after the course which is useful for the entities to develop a training plan as well as identify the trainees, based on the results of such assessment. The course and the capacity assessment tool will be finalized in early April and it would be available on line through UN Women's website to any interested party. Should entities want to have it posted on their platforms, UN Women will be willing to sign up agreements in order to ensure that the feedback evaluation is submitted to UN Women.

Participants welcomed the development of the basic training course. Participants raised questions regarding the accessibility to the course, whether it is mandatory or voluntary in terms of the UN SWAP reporting; what other options are offered to other entities; and to what extent UN Women can contribute to the development of entity specific gender courses. Also what would be the relationship between the course and other capacity development tools available online throughout the UN system. Finally, participants suggested the course to be available not only online but in a CD rom format for those countries and offices with limited connectivity to Internet and to have a standardized feedback format to be used in all the entities. It was clarified that at first stage the course will be available in English. Translations are envisaged at least to Spanish and French depending on funds availability. The course is not mandatory across the system but entities can decide to make it mandatory for their staff. It can be used broadly as a capacity building tool. If entities want to customize the course to their specific mandate, UN Women could provide technical assistance. Final version will be available to all interested parties in UN Women website at: <http://trainingcentre.unwomen.org/> and it will be updated every other year based on the users' feedback.

c. IANWGE organizational matters

Decisions about the life cycle of the Task Forces and Standing Agenda Items. The inter-sessional activities have been covered virtually and their report is available in annex 1. The IANWGE decided to continue to support the existence of its standing agenda items as follows:

- Standing Agenda Item on Women and Peace and Security (UN Women)
- Standing Agenda Item on Violence Against Women (UN Women)
- Standing Agenda Item on Women-Watch (UN Women)
- Standing Agenda Item on matters related to CEDAW Committee

With regards to the task forces, the IANWGE decided the following:

- Women's Access to Justice (OHCHR – ILO): The Task Force was discontinued in 2013. The final version of 'the mapping of women's access to justice' will be shared shortly with the Network.
- Women's Economic Empowerment (UN Women): Progress report not shared. Status of Task Force unclear. The IANWGE decided that UN Women would circulate a revised version of the TORs updated and members will express their interest in participating in a new phase.
- Joint Programme on Rural Women (FAO, WFP, IFAD, UN Women). Progress report submitted and available on the extranet. The programme will continue to be implemented.
- Gender and Trade (UNCTAD). Progress report submitted and available on the extranet. The IANWGE decided the task force will continue.
- Gender and Climate Change (UNDP – UNESCO). Progress report submitted and available on the extranet. IANWGE decided the task force will continue.
- Gender and Migration (UN Women – IOM). Progress report submitted and available on the extranet. IANWGE decided the task force will continue.

- Gender and Natural Disasters. DESA proposed this new task force which was seconded by OCHA among other entities. The Secretariat proposes that interested entities to DESA proposed a new task force on draft the proposed Terms of reference which would be circulated virtually for IANWGE endorsement and for expressions of interest for potential members.

Dates for the 14th annual session: The fifty-ninth session of CSW is planned to take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, tentatively scheduled for 9-20 March 2015. The Secretariat was requested to hold the meeting on the week before CSW. The proposal is that the 14th Annual session could be limited to two days and be held on the week before CSW-59, on 5 and 6 March 2015. Further elaboration will be discussed when the dates of CSW are confirmed.

Theme for International Women's Day. The fifty-ninth session of CSW will undertake a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The Network decided to align the theme of International Women's Day to the priority theme of CSW. The Secretariat will elaborate on refining the theme and defining the slogan for communications purposes.

Acknowledgement to IANWGE members that have recently retired. The IANWGE agreed the Secretariat to send an acknowledgement message to members that have recently retired: Jane Hodges (ILO) and Kate Burns (OCHA).

3. Closing Session

Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women led the final session. The session started with brief introductions from the IANWGE membership to the new Chair. There was general appreciation of the coordination role of UN Women and the contribution of a stronger IANWGE which has generated better coherence, knowledge sharing and accountability across the system with important results on the inter-governmental and policy making fronts as well as improved guidance and support to the coordination work at the country level. Participants also acknowledged the contribution of the UN SWAP.

The special relationship between the IANWGE and the OECD DAC GENDERNET was also recognized. Through the biennial joint workshops, the networks have been able to strategize to address challenges faced by multilateral and bilateral agencies in their support to Member States in advancing the gender equality goal. Example of positive outcomes included the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation where the two networks supported the efforts of women's organizations to influence the discussions at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan. Also, the discussion on the context of the last joint workshop in November 2013 on the post 2015 development agenda had contributed to set the tone and prepare Member States to the discussions and positive outcome of the 8th session of the OWG.

The chair thanked the Network for their contribution to advance the gender equality work in the UN system. In relation to the 58th session of CSW, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka thanked the IAWNGE support in getting the Executive Directors to come together in a UN system joint statement, stressing commitment to continue to work together with all stakeholders to accelerate efforts to achieve a just and equal world. The IANWGE had worked hard for ensuring CSW58 would inform and guide a forward-looking development blueprint which stresses the central importance of ensuring women's rights, empowerment and gender equality. With the joint statement, Executive Directors are helping to invigorate the recognition that the realization of women's and girls' human rights is far from achieved and needs increased action if the MDGs are to be achieved. The Network was called to continue to support Member States in the implementation of Agreed Conclusions which would become the foundation for

gender equality to be comprehensively and robustly addressed in the new post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In relation to the post 2015, the Chair recognized the increasing political commitment to a stand-alone goal focusing on women and girls in the post-2015 development agenda and to mainstreaming gender across all goals. Strong advocacy and outreach by the UN system, including UN Women, with Member States, as well as IANWGE's work during the OWG sessions, contributed to this support for gender equality and women's empowerment. For the time being, the priority is to sustain the engagement of IANWGE's members in refining targets and indicators for the goal on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment. It is also critical to support Member States in developing meaningful gender-sensitive targets and indicators for all focus areas identified by the co-Chairs of the OWG.

The new post-2015 agenda and SDGs must be built on the lessons learned from the MDGs, and tackle the unequal power relations between men and women. They should also tackle structural impediments to gender equality and the persistent social norms and gender stereotypes that continue to hinder progress and discriminate against women and girls. The new post-2015 agenda and SDGs should robustly integrate gender across all goals and targets that are developed and address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and also address the broader context for the realization of gender equality, such as the impact of economic crises, persistent conflict, climate change and environmental degradation. The only way forward for this new development agenda is through the political will for stronger institutions, governance and accountability if real change for women and girls is to be achieved. Actually a key task for the Network is to support Member States to ensure not only a post 2015 development framework that recognizes the important of gender equality but to create the institutional conditions to ensure its full implementation.

Part II. VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

Agenda Items considered virtually: Summary of Progress Report of Task Forces and Standing Agenda Items.

a. Standing Agenda Item on Women and Peace and Security

Highlights of achievements. Remarkable achievements were made at the normative level in 2013. Two new resolutions - 2106 and 2122 - were adopted by the Security Council to further operationalize the women, peace and security agenda;¹ two high-level political commitments were made to combat sexual violence in conflict;² a declaration on women's economic empowerment in peacebuilding was adopted by the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC/7/OC/3), and a criterion on gender-based violence was included in the Arms Trade Treaty (Article 7 (4)). In addition, over 40 countries, and a growing number of regional and sub-regional organizations, have adopted specific action plans or strategies to drive more effective implementation and innovative 'localization' projects are bringing the commitments of women, peace and security agenda to the attention of local decision-makers.³ The adoption of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations was another landmark achievement giving authoritative guidance to countries that have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on concrete measures to ensure women's human rights are protected before, during and after conflict. The challenge ahead lies at the level of implementation at the national and local levels. Preparations for the 2015 High-level Review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and the Global Study requested in resolution 2122 (2013) provides an invaluable opportunity for the UN system and partners to accelerate action were needed and address emerging concerns and priorities.

Overview of 2013 activities. The Standing Committee continued to serve as an important mechanism for bridging policy and programming work, sharing knowledge and coordinate action across the pillars of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related commitments on women, peace and security, and to ensure synergies across related reporting processes. Much of the work remained focused on: a) taking forward reporting on the 1325 indicators, including through development of methodological guidance, b) coordinating the preparation of the SG's annual reports on women, peace and security and related Open Debate of the Security Council, and c) accelerating delivery on UN commitments and targets as framed in the UN strategic results framework on women, peace and security and the SG's Seven Point Action Plan on Gender-responsive Peacebuilding. An indicative baseline study of financial targets was undertaken jointly by PBSO, UN Women and UNDP using information gleaned from UNDP's Gender Marker system revealed that that efforts must be accelerated to reach the target of allocating fifteen per cent of all peacebuilding and recovery funds to gender equality and women's empowerment by the end of 2014. Work towards developing an interagency WPS resource and knowledge hub also progressed and it is expected that a first phase version of the site will be launched in the first half of 2014. In addition, Members of the Standing Committee continued to support more systematic inclusion of women and peace and security commitments across the work of the Security Council, including by providing technical briefings to new Security Council members.

1 This now includes a total of seven Security Council resolutions: S/RES/1325 (2000), S/RES/1820 (2008), S/RES/1888 (2009), S/RES/1889 (2009), S/RES/1960 (2010), S/RES/2106 (2013), S/RES/2122 (2013)

2 In April 2013, the G8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence was signed. In September 2013, 134 Member States signed a Declaration of commitment to end sexual violence in conflict.

3 UN Women (2014). Final report from the global technical review meeting on building accountability for implementation of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. New York

Achievements, good practice examples as well as gaps and challenges are highlighted in the SG's 2013 report (S/2013/525). The report assesses the state of implementation in the areas of prevention, participation, protection and relief and recovery and puts forward a set of policy recommendations for the consideration of the Council and the Member States. At the Open Debate of the Security Council held 18 October 2013 several Member States again quoted directly from data and findings in their national statements⁴ illustrating the value of a stronger evidence-base and improved analysis of trends. The findings of report formed the basis for resolution 2122 (2013) adopted by the Security Council at the Open Debate.⁵

The UN's Strategic Results Framework on Women, Peace and Security (SRF) was developed through a consultative interagency process in response to the 26 October 2010 Statement of the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2010/22). The SRF puts forward a joint vision for action with intermediate (2014) and longer-term targets (2020), building on and complementing the Secretary-General's 7-point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding (7PAP), the Strategic Framework of UN Action on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the UN SWAP, and the indicators to track implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The SRF was presented to the Security Council in the 2011 report of the Secretary-General on WPS (S/2011/598). Different UN entities have committed to bring specific areas forward. An internal review of the framework and a critical assessment of progress against its targets will be undertaken in 2014.

Priorities and planned activities for 2014

- Accelerating action and delivery on UN-specific WPS commitments and targets: A major priority for the UN system in 2014 is to ensure results against the 2014 targets set out in the SRF and the 7PAP. An internal review of progress will be undertaken coordinated by the Standing Committee and the findings will be presented to senior management for action. Targeted technical and capacity building support will be provided to the self-nominated 7PAP pilot countries.
- Furthering development and reporting on the SCR 1325 indicators. The focus in 2014 will be on developing guidance and arranging consultations on indicators for voluntary reporting by Member States.
- Coordinating preparation of the SG's 2014 report on women, peace and security and related Open Debate of the Security Council. The report, mandated in S/RES/2122 (2013), OP 18, will assess the state of implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) in the areas of prevention, participation, protection and peacebuilding, relief and recovery, including data on the 1325 indicators and analysis of trends and emerging priorities.
- Preparing for the 2015 High-level Review and Global Study on WPS: Both the review and the study that were mandated in resolution 2122 (2013), OP 15 and 16, will require strong system-wide engagement. It is expected that the Study will help mobilize and accelerate necessary action and point the way to a more systematic way forward through new analysis and data, case studies, collection of good practice as well as concrete evidence-based recommendations

⁴ To access all statements, including country statements, made at the Open Debate, please go to:

http://www.peacewomen.org/security_council_monitor/debate-watch/all-debates/70/security-council-open-debate-on-women-peace-and-security-october-2013

⁵ For UN News Story on the Open Debate, please go to:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46283&Cr=Violence+against+women&Cr1=#.UmGZYVPlSo>

guiding both policy-makers and practitioners. The findings of the study will be presented to the Security Council in 2015.

b. Standing Agenda Item on Violence Against Women

UN System's work on Violence against Women

Follow on CSW 57 and the Joint Statement on Ending on Violence against Women and Girls The process leading up to the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CSW57) was one of the most inclusive to date with UN Women working together with up to 11 UN agencies on both the preparations for CSW 57 and on the Joint Statement on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, the latter being launched at a high level heads of agencies meeting during the Commission. Following the successful outcome of CSW 57 which resulted in Agreed Conclusions on the priority theme, 'the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls' and the release of the first global UN Joint Statement on the issue, all the UN agencies involved in the preparations leading up to the Commission have continued to meet to discuss ways and means of cooperating to encourage the implementation of the agreed conclusions from CSW 57.

Following CSW 57, UN agencies (particularly UN Women, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC, ILO and WHO) participated in CSW follow-up teleconferences on three occasions to discuss ongoing cooperation which has resulted in the following:

- Many agencies exchanging information on their VAWG activities following CSW 57 including convening panels and sessions during inter-governmental meetings on implementation of CSW 57 agreed conclusions, working toward related resolutions in other inter-governmental fora (ILO Labour Conference, World Health Assembly , Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice etc...); providing regular updates to staff in the field on the outcomes of CSW 57 and ongoing guidance on VAWG related issues, and how VAW is being addressed and incorporated in their agencies' strategic plans/official planning documents; and
- The development of an inter-agency guidance note to be shared by the UN agencies to their gender/VAW staff in the field to support inter-agency collaboration and the implementation of CSW 57, and other VAW obligations. Many of the UN agencies involved in the development of this guidance note (UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC UNICEF, WHO, ILO, UNESCO, OHCHR) have sent the note to their respective field offices and gender advisors.

Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence. In an effort to bridge the gap between international normative commitments and implementation at country level, UN Women, UNFPA and other interested agencies such as WHO, UNDP and UNODC are working to develop and/or adapt quality standards and guidelines for the provision of essential services in the area of health, police and justice, social services and governance and coordination. The first global technical consultation on the health sector was held in 5-8 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand and the second, focusing on the police and justice sector will be held 6-9 May 2014 in Morocco.

Inventory of United Nations system activities to prevent and eliminate violence against women.

This inventory gives an overview of past and ongoing activities on violence against women by the entities of the United Nations system, including those which will contribute to the achievement of the five key outcomes of the Secretary-General's Campaign by 2015. It is compiled by UN Women, as a contribution to the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. The inventory was first issued in July 2007, when departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat, regional commissions, funds and programmes, specialized agencies, international financial institutions, as well

as the International Organization for Migration, provided a baseline of their activities on violence against women. Subsequently, updates to the inventory were compiled in January 2008, September 2008, February 2009, September 2009, February 2010, September 2010, February 2011, and February 2012, February 2013. The most recent compilation was completed in February 2014 which was based on contributions from 19 United Nations entities. The key themes in this year's compilation also included inter-agency mechanisms and activities; international legal and policy development; enhance capacity of UN entity in relation to violence against women; support for legislative development; support for policy development; prevention, including awareness-raising and advocacy; protection, support and services for victims/survivors; data collection, analysis and research; training and capacity building; measures to address sexual violence in conflict situations.

Country/Regional Cooperation. In addition to the activities resulting from cooperation through the Secretary-General's UNiTE to end violence campaign (see Attachment 1), there are an extensive number of joint programmes and coordination efforts at global, regional and country level dedicated to ending violence against women and girls. In a recent evaluation of joint gender programming in the UN System, EVAW was the most common thematic area (31%) in UN joint gender programmes and accounted for a similar proportion of the overall aggregated planned budget (28%) for all joint gender programmes. Some examples of joint programmes at the regional level include the development of the investigation protocol on femicide in Latin America as well as the Partners for Prevention Programme, trafficking in women and girls and a regional programme on VAW and sex work in the Asia Pacific region.

2014 and beyond. The priority of the UN System with respect to violence against women at the global level over the next two years will focus on ensuring the inclusion of ending violence against women and girls in the post 2015 sustainable development agenda (with specific targets and indicators) as well as on the Beijing +20 review and appraisal at the regional and country level and at CSW 59.

Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women

The UN Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women, launched in 2008, aims to raise public awareness, and increase political will and resources to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. The UNiTE campaign continues to galvanize the work of the UN system, and increase the involvement of Member States in efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls.

Results demonstrate that the UNiTE campaign is successfully stimulating action at the local, regional, national and global levels. In addition to mobilizing men and young people through its global networks, the campaign's Orange Day initiative (UNiTE has declared the 25th of each month as a day to highlight and take action against violence against women and girls) has generated an impressive response and brought new constituencies to participate in campaign activities and increased its global reach. Through monthly themes, Orange Day was utilized throughout 2013 to highlight different aspects of the Agreed Conclusions of the 57th Commission on the Status of Women. During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, the campaign launched a call to 'Orange the World' to draw maximum attention to the issue and paint the image of a brighter world without violence against women and girls. Activities took place in over 50 countries and governments, celebrities, civil society organizations and the United Nations system participated in diverse and creative activities to raise awareness and public engagement. A social media campaign, which reached 76 million people, engaged a global audience to declare their intention to commemorate the day by sharing messages stating 'I wear orange because...'

Plans for 2014 and closure of the UNiTE campaign. In 2014, the campaign will build on the momentum created by the Orange Day initiative, and will continue to provide monthly themes, actions and

messages. It will prioritize engaging men, boys and youth through activities planned for the Secretary General's Network of Men Leaders, the UNiTE Campaign's Global Youth Network, and proposed partnerships with sporting federations.

The campaign is scheduled to end in 2015 and plans are currently underway for a closing ceremony to take place at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015.

A final report to the campaign's High Level Steering Committee will be prepared in 2014. Participating agencies will be contacted to provide information regarding their activities under the umbrella of the campaign for the report.

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women: Progress Update 2014

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women supports local, national, regional and cross-regional efforts to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls in all contexts. It provides funding for proven, innovative and catalytic multi-year programmes implemented by civil society organizations, national and local Governments and United Nations country teams. To date, the Trust Fund has awarded \$95 million to 368 initiatives in 132 countries and territories. It currently supports 78 active initiatives in 71 countries and territories with grants totaling \$56.8 million.

Trust Fund-supported programmes to prevent violence against women and girls are mobilizing communities in order to change beliefs, attitudes and practices that perpetuate and normalize violence. These initiatives are opening up safe spaces for girls in which they can thrive and develop their potential. They are promoting strategies to end impunity for gender-based violence in conflict situations, including by gathering evidence, strengthening prosecution systems and establishing non-judicial, truth-telling mechanisms. Through the Trust Fund's support, grantees have also made great advances in the implementation of legislation that addresses all forms of violence against women and girls. In 2013 alone, the Trust Fund-supported programmes reached more than 3 million women, men, girls and boys around the world, including more than 30,000 survivors of violence.

The Trust Fund announced its 18th Call for Proposals on 25 November 2013. Given the promising results of community-based approaches and the central role of social mobilization to enact change, in this grant cycle the Fund will specifically and strategically invest in grassroots women's organizations and youth-led organizations, in addition to well-established civil society organizations, Governments and United Nations country teams. Programmes that engage groups facing discrimination and exclusion, such as internally displaced people; refugees; women and girls living in conflict, post-conflict and transitional settings; and women with disabilities will receive special consideration.

Plans for 2014. Throughout 2014, the UN Trust Fund will continue to invest heavily in developing the capacities of grantees to conduct effective monitoring and evaluation and to improve the overall processes for capturing and disseminating knowledge. In March, the Trust Fund will host a week-long capacity development training in Istanbul for recently funded grantees in order to improve their technical capabilities, capacities for evidence-based programming, and readiness to advance strong multi-stakeholder partnerships.

To fulfil its mandate and vision, the Trust Fund is also stepping up its efforts to increase its pool of funds. The goal is to reach \$15 million in grant-making funds for 2014. The Trust Fund is confident that Member States, the private sector and concerned individuals will work with the Fund to achieve this aim.

c. Standing Agenda Item on matters related to CEDAW Committee

Last year was a productive one for the CEDAW Committee which adopted two general recommendations, disposed of seven individual communications, examined the periodic reports of 22 States parties, and adopted one inquiry report and undertook one country visit under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention. In addition, the Committee convened two half days of general discussion, one on women's access to justice and one on rural women, to serve as a starting point for elaborating general recommendations on these topics.

Since our last briefing, there have been no changes in the number of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The total number of States parties is 187. There have also been no additional ratifications of and accessions to the Optional Protocol, which has 104 States parties. No additional States have accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Committee's meeting time, which remains at 68 States parties. The amendment requires acceptance by 125 States parties, before it can enter into force.

During its 55th, 56th and 57th sessions, the Committee considered the reports of 22 States parties, including three initial reports. Many areas of concern were raised by the Committee in its concluding observations following the review of these 22 States parties. Particular focus was placed on violence against women, harmful practices, access to justice and disadvantaged groups of women, including women affected by conflict situations, disabled women, rural women and migrant women.

As usual, representatives of United Nations entities, including the Inter-Agency Group on CEDAW Reporting and many of you here, as well as national human rights institutions and NGOs attended the sessions, participated in informal meetings and shared information to facilitate the Committee's work. Avenues to further expand this cooperation will be explored by the Committee with members of the Inter-Agency Group on CEDAW Reporting (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO and UN Women) during the 58th session of CEDAW in July.

The Committee continues to elaborate general recommendations to promote understanding of the Convention's substantive content and the specific nature of discrimination against women. On 26 February 2013, the Committee adopted General Recommendation No. 29 on article 16 of the Convention (Economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution). The general recommendation addresses the discriminatory nature of many family laws, concluding that all family laws must adhere to the equality norms of the Convention. Some of these norms include the equal treatment of women and men as surviving spouses or partners, prohibit the disinheritance of the surviving spouse and provide that rights to land should not be conditioned on forced marriage to a deceased spouse's brother or any other person. It recognizes the various forms of contemporary family relationships that give rise to property rights. These family relationships may include same-sex relationships, de facto unions and registered partnerships. The general recommendation states that polygamy should be discouraged and prohibited, while protecting the economic rights of those women who are currently in a polygamous marriage. Property rights subject to fair distribution after the dissolution of marriage include pensions, social security payments and land. The general recommendation also addresses the rights of widows, noting that many States parties, by law or custom, deny widows equality with widowers as to inheritance, leaving them economically vulnerable upon the death of the spouse.

On 18 October 2013, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. The general recommendation emphasizes that States parties to the Convention are required to uphold women's rights before, during and after conflict, whether they are directly involved in fighting or are providing peacekeeping troops or donor assistance

for conflict prevention, humanitarian aid or post-conflict reconstruction. States parties should exercise due diligence in ensuring that non-State actors, such as armed groups and private security contractors, are held accountable for crimes against women. The general recommendation stresses the importance of women's involvement in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, in addition to highlighting the need for a concerted and integrated approach that places the Security Council agenda on women, peace and security within the broader framework of the implementation of the Convention.

In addition, the Committee is in the process of finalizing a draft general recommendation on gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum and statelessness and a draft joint CEDAW/CRC general recommendation/comment on harmful practices. It is hoped that both general recommendations will be adopted at the Committee's 59th session in October this year. The Committee also embarked on the elaboration of general recommendations on women's access to justice and on rural women, following the half days of general discussion that were held on these topics on 18 February and on 7 October 2013, respectively. First drafts of the general recommendations are currently under preparation. UN Women, UNDP and FAO have been particularly active and supportive of the general discussions as well as the Committee's work in the development of both general recommendations.

The Committee further decided to hold a half day of general discussion on the right to education on 7 July 2014 during its 58th session, with a view to preparing a general recommendation on the topic, and to start preparing a general recommendation on climate change and natural disasters.

Additionally, the Committee adopted statements on the role of women in the process of political transition in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia; on strengthened cooperation with UN Women; on the post-2015 development agenda and the elimination of discrimination against women; and on sexual and reproductive health and rights (Beyond 2014 ICPD review).

During its three most recent sessions, the Committee took action on eight communications under article 2 of the Optional Protocol, adopting inadmissibility decisions on six cases and Views finding violations in two cases, one concerning rape and one relating to discriminatory legislation on maternity benefits. In addition, the Committee adopted findings, comments and recommendations in relation to one inquiry and undertook a country visit in relation to another inquiry under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, indicating grave or systematic violations by a State party of rights set forth in the Convention.

Through its periodic review of hundreds of periodic reports from States parties culminating in the adoption of concluding observations with concrete recommendations, the follow-up procedure, the elaboration of general recommendations, and its growing body of jurisprudence under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, the Committee has provided guidance and constructive feedback on how to improve the situation of women worldwide. However, much more is needed to bring about substantive equality of women and men at the country level. I would therefore be interested to hear your views on how this Network could strengthen cooperation with the Committee in promoting women's rights and gender equality and support States parties in implementing the Committee's recommendations.

d. Standing Agenda Item on Women-Watch

UN Women Watch is soon running out of funds and requires the financial support of the UN system in continuing its services moving forward. As you know, UN Women Watch provides a critical role in promoting the work of the UN system on gender in one space; we want to continue being able to do so and ideally, also make critical updates to its site.

In 2013, UN Women Watch achieved a number of results to increase public awareness on a range of gender-related topics and to strengthen UN system coordination efforts online. Here are some highlights:

- Social media: UN Women Watch saw increased engagement on its social media platforms, in particular Twitter. Through this platform, @UNWomenWatch's followers grew 100% to 46,535 followers and its tweets were retweeted a total of 15,870 during the 2013 period.
- News & features: The website continued to promote the latest gender-related news from the UN system on a daily basis, driving traffic towards UN agency websites through direct linking of content. In July 2013, the UN Gender Equality News Feed was made a standing feature on UN Women's homepage, through which the latest UN system news is dynamically displayed. Following the success of its first Year in Review interactive package in 2012, UN Women Watch released a 2013 version in English and Spanish.
- Extranet: In February 2013, the IANWGE extranet was officially launched and serves as a central, password-protected online platform where gender focal points from the UN system can access a range of information, from agendas for annual meetings to relevant updates on UN coordination.

The full 2013 progress report for UN Women Watch is available on the IANWGE extranet [here](#).

e. Task Force on Women's Access to Justice.

The Task Force was discontinued in 2013. The final version of 'the mapping of women's access to justice' will be shared shortly with the Network.

f. Joint UN Women/FAO/IFAD/WFP Programme on Accelerating Progress towards the Economic Empowerment of Rural Women

The four entities have jointly funded various preparatory activities such as the launch of the programme at global level, the national consultative process in each country and the elaboration of country programme documents. The following activities have been implemented:

Launch of the joint programme. A High level launch event was organised during a side event on the Occasion of the 67th UN General Assembly in September 2012, with the participation of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia. It was co-hosted by UN Women, FAO, IFAD and WFP in partnership with the Governments of Brazil, Canada, Liberia and the Netherlands. The launch event gathered high-level officials from Member States, rural women's leaders, and representatives of the UN System, the private sector, civil society organizations, the media and academia. It provided a high-level forum featuring champions, supporters and others working to empower rural women at local, national and international levels. The programme was also launched in Rome on International Day for Rural Women on 15 October 2012, on the occasion of the 39th session of the Committee on World Food Security.

National consultative process and elaboration of fully fledged country programme documents. In each country, the national consultative process involved the following: field visits and focus group discussions with rural women's group in various areas to assess their needs and priorities; interview of key government officials to better respond to national priorities; mapping of current initiatives on which the joint programme can build on; scan of the policy environment to identify processes and national priorities and define key entry points for engagement; organisation of a national multi-stakeholder consultative workshop for the collective ownership and direction of the joint programme; elaboration of a fully fledged country programme document with an action plan and a budget.

Setting up of a Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the Joint Programme. A Multi Donor Trust Fund was established as a modality to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency in managing the funds. The Multi Partner Trust Fund Office serves as the Administrative Agent (AA). The AA is responsible for, receiving, administering and managing contributions from donors. An International Steering Committee will be set up to oversee the allocation of funds mobilized at international level. In each country, a National Steering Committee chaired by a Government and a UN Representative will be established.

Highlight of specific country programmes. The following activities will be implemented in each of the seven countries covered by the joint programme:

- Policy diagnosis to assess the extent to which national agricultural, nutrition, rural development, rural employment, land and social protection policies, strategies, laws, programmes and budgets address rural women's economic empowerment.
- High level multi-stakeholder policy dialogue involving Ministries of agriculture, gender and other relevant Government institutions, rural women's networks, civil society organisations, development partners, UN organisations and the private sector on the economic empowerment of rural women, based on the results of the policy diagnosis.
- Policy assistance for gender responsive food, agriculture, nutrition, rural development, land and social protection policies and legal frameworks; This involves the policy framework for the establishment and development of gender equitable producer organizations (e.g. cooperatives, unions).
- Support to rural women's advocacy platforms to leverage their voice and influence in key policy processes, including in the Post 2015 Development Agenda and its future implementation at country level.
- Technical support to national statistical systems and relevant ministries to enhance the availability of gender disaggregated data to monitor performance toward the achievement of rural women's economic empowerment. This involves piloting the 'Women in Agriculture Empowerment Index' which measures gender inequalities related to decisions about agricultural production, access to and decision-making power over productive resources, control over use of income, leadership in the community, and time use. This also includes the development of a national scorecard to assess the gender responsiveness of policies, strategies, budgets and monitoring systems.

Highlight of the programme focus in each country:

Kyrgyzstan: The Joint Programme builds on a project geared at improving the livelihoods of rural women implemented by UN Women, FAO and WFP over the last two years. Its formulation is based on a very consultative process involving focus group discussions with rural women's organizations from various areas, a profiling of villages and households, a thorough mapping exercise of ongoing initiatives of development partners and a national consultative workshop. The programme priorities include the following:

- Support social mobilization and strengthening of self-help groups (SHGs) to prepare them to receive assistance.
- Conduct studies on the profitability of various agricultural and livestock activities in accordance with special climatic and social and demographic conditions of different regions.

- Develop rural women's productive capacity and access to markets through provision of agricultural inputs, agro-extension consultations and training in various areas: fertilization; water drip irrigation; small scale vegetable processing, fruit drying and preservation; silage preparation; pasture management; winter feeding; milk collection and kurut and sheep cheese making; entrepreneurship and marketing skills to support the establishment of cooperatives.
- Support the development of the system of governance of the Oblast Revolving Fund and its Operational Guidelines, and support to SHGs to join the Community Funds and access grants.
- Conduct gender assessment of the governance system of Water User Association (WUA), Pasture Committees (PC), Seeds Funds (SF), etc. to support women's leadership and participation in rural institutions.
- Define linkages with ongoing programme on vocational training reform and integrate rural women's training needs in accordance with the professions in demand in the labour market in rural areas, so that they can access decent wage employment.
- Facilitate Public Hearings at Parliament level to ensure dialogue between policy makers and rural women activists on rural women's access to resources and entrepreneurship.
- Undertake functional analysis of the ministries of agriculture, economic development and other sectoral ministries, and parliamentary committees and strengthen their capacity for gender mainstreaming.
- Support gender responsive local development planning and budgeting in pilot areas and document best practices of open and inclusive governance in ensuring the participation of vulnerable groups and prioritizing their needs.
- Assess main data gaps in rural gender statistics, related structural and methodological issues and strengthen capacities in collecting and analyzing gender disaggregated data. This involves the piloting of a 'women in agriculture empowerment index' and national scorecard, based on availability of data.

Liberia: The Joint Programme builds on the UN Joint Programme on Food Security and Nutrition as well as on the Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2009-2013). Its formulation is based on the outcome of a national consultative process, including the extensive participatory evaluation of Liberia's previous joint programmes focusing on the empowerment of rural women. The programme will be implemented within the results framework of the UN/ Government of Liberia One Programme on Gender (2013 – 2017), and its priorities include:

- Enhance the organizational capacity of the National Rural Women's Structure to represent the needs and concerns of rural women across Liberia, particularly the most vulnerable.
- Improve women's access to land, agricultural inputs and assets, innovative technologies and extension services.
- Support and strengthen the capacity of women's cooperatives to improve their access to market opportunities, such as the Purchase for Progress programme.
- Expand rural women's access to financial services through the expansion of Savings and Loan Associations (SLAs), with a particular focus on piloting training models for agricultural SLAs.
- Increase the skills of rural women, including girls and young women, in literacy, numeracy and business development.

- Strengthen rural women’s leadership and participation in local governance, particularly in the constitutional reform process.
- Provide technical assistance for local level gender responsive planning and budgeting, in line with implementation of Liberia’s Decentralization Policy.
- Ensure linkages for rural women and young girls to wider programming on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as sexual and reproductive health services.

Nepal: In Nepal, the national consultative process involved women farmers and women leaders from across the country, gender equality advocates, academics, development partners including UN organizations and various Government entities: the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Agriculture and Development, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Ministry of Land Reform and Management, and local governance representatives. The joint programme is in line with the national agricultural strategy (GESI) and its priorities include the following:

- Support implementation of a Maternal Infant Young Child Nutrition Strategy at the VDC level, through the provision of a food supplement for pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-23 months; promotion of nutrition sensitive and varied homestead gardening with a focus on indigenous crops; and awareness raising for better sanitation and hygiene.
- Assist women farmer’s cooperatives to receive government services such as joint registration of farm land, irrigation and water storage and management schemes, agriculture, veterinary, marketing and credit services. This involves awareness-raising on existing provisions through establishment of information kiosks near community markets.
- Support to piloting of the coupon system for subsidies in relation to agriculture services from a gender perspective.
- Increase rural women’s access to inputs, technical skills and innovative technologies to increase their income through horticulture, livestock and cash crops.
- Enhance rural women’s access to skills and information for multipurpose and diverse forest conservation, harvest and management of forest resources through leasehold forestry and nurseries.
- Provide training on entrepreneurship and vocational skills development in both farm and off-farm sectors to optimise sustainable use and investment of remittance in areas such as village based agro-enterprise development, agro-vets, seed business, and rural tourism and facilitate linkages with business development services and microfinance institutions.
- Support the formalisation of women’s cooperatives and self-help groups, and create negotiation fora for rural women entrepreneurs to directly interface with local government entities and the private sector in negotiating for access to services and markets.
- Build rural women’s capacity to engage in Local Adaption Plan of Action and other community based processes on clean energy, sustainable agriculture, land and forestry planning.
- Support rural women’s groups’ to position themselves as service providers for paid ecological services within the framework of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Develop advocacy tools and campaigns on women’s unpaid care work and shared responsibility, and support rural women’s environment friendly drudgery reducing assets such as clean cook stoves, solar energy, and improved water mill/storage.
- Carry out a gender audit of policies and practices on land, taxation, trade, and agriculture as they relate to rural women and strengthen the capacity of relevant government, non-government, and private sector institutions to provide gender responsive services to rural women.
- Support the Central Bureau of Statistics to generate a national level disaggregated gender info base and a fact sheet on ‘Women and the economy in Figures’, focusing on rural areas to support evidence based policy advocacy.

- Strengthen the capacity of local government in gender responsive budgeting (GRB) and institutionalize district level GRB committees in local government machineries.
- Promote the establishment of national level policy dialogue fora involving policy makers, parliamentarians and the public to influence macroeconomic and sectoral policies so that they prioritise the economic empowerment of rural women.
- Train youth clubs, radio listeners' groups, faith based groups and media on gender equality, concepts of masculinities and violence against women, support awareness campaign in schools and communities in partnership with women's networks and facilitate community dialogues.

Niger: The Joint programme builds on various initiatives within the framework of the 3N Initiative (*Les Nigériens Nourissent les Nigériens*), the 'Zero Hunger Challenge', and the FAO/UNICEF/UN Women/WFP Joint Integrated Strategy for school feeding at community level. The Joint Programme is shaped on the basis of various inputs provided by key stakeholders such as ministries, rural women's networks, civil society organisations, UN organisations and development partners. The focus of the Joint Programme is as follows:

- Strengthen rural women's leadership and participation in decision-making through FAO-Dimitra community listeners' clubs and functional literacy.
- Strengthen the productive, entrepreneurship and organizational capacities of women farmers' groups in producer unions so that they access market opportunities provided by the School Feeding and Purchase for Progress programmes. This involves support through the food value chain, from production to post harvest handling, food processing, value addition and diversification.
- Upscale the Cash for Assets programme with a particular focus on women to strengthen their resilience to crisis.
- Support the setting up of 'One Stop shops' to provide rural women with training, information and integrated services that are key for food and nutrition security, sanitation and hygiene and reduction of women's unpaid work burden.

Rwanda: The Joint Programme builds on various joint initiatives such as WFP Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme, the UN Women programme on enhancing gender responsive service delivery in the agriculture sector, and the FAO Farmer and Junior Field Schools. Key areas of focus include the following:

- Support initiatives that address household food and nutrition needs, empower small-scale women farmers, promote small-scale farming, and increase access to services, inputs and technology.
- Provide labour savings technologies that are women-friendly, decrease their drudgery and enhance their agricultural productivity and food processing capacity.
- Promote women led co-operatives that focus on the creation of food banks and awareness-raising for improving nutrition habits, and production of vegetables and selected crops.
- Advocate and strengthen capacity for gender responsiveness of ongoing rural development and agricultural programmes.
- Provide rural women with training in functional literacy, leadership development, and reproductive health.
- Promote safe and secure stay home programmes to provide rural women with alternative sources of income.
- Implement social awareness programmes targeting families, institutions, political parties and men in local communities to champion and support change, through addressing economic and other forms of Violence against Women, and challenging negative social norms and attitudes, with the use of the media.
- Support organizational development of producer organizations, cooperatives and unions in business and marketing skills, so that they can elaborate sound business plans.

- Conduct counseling and gender sensitization trainings to advance gender equality and social inclusion policies in organizations, and political and social groups at local and national levels. Provide technical assistance to mainstream gender in land policy reform, focusing on rural women's tenure security for agriculture production and leasehold forestry.
- Advance gender sensitive social inclusion policies, governance of organizations and cooperatives, and agriculture-trade linkages.
- Strengthen the capacity of government institutions to routinely address gender issues through refinement of the national educational curriculum in agriculture, food and nutrition.
- Advocate for the development of appropriate schemes for the productive use of rural women's economic and social remittances, and the establishment of safety nets for vulnerable women – pregnant women, elderly, sick women, and women from disadvantaged groups.
- Advance gender in rural infrastructure development for investments to focus on environmentally sustainable, labour-saving and productivity enhancing technologies that primarily benefit Rwandan rural women and girls.

Guatemala: The participating agencies have extensive experience in promoting the economic development of rural women in Guatemala. FAO implements home gardens where the main objective, in terms of livelihoods, is to facilitate immediate access to food, promoting the participation of women. Through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, WFP supports the participation of women in legally recognized organizations, with access to agricultural inputs, associative marketing, development and diversification of leadership and other actions that strengthen an increase in income and impact on food and nutritional security. In terms of business strengthening, as one more step in the development of women, UN Women established service centers for women's businesses– SCEM. These centers support the identification and the GPS referencing of enterprises as well as strengthening organizational processes, leadership and women's rights, training, production chains, access to markets and to credit for women. IFAD supports the Government and other partners on funding initiatives, seeking economic diversification in rural areas and increasing regional political dialogue on rural development, trade, and inclusion of women and youth. In addition to working directly with women, institutional development plays an important role, where all agencies work very closely on public policy with the Ministry of Agriculture. UN Women leads work with the Presidential Secretariat for Women, especially as linked to the economic empowerment of women.

The priority actions of the project include the following:

- Training on rural small farmer production systems: home gardens and corn crops; administration, marketing and credit management.
- Training on food and nutrition security, especially on food quality and safety, food consumption and diversified diets, and biological use of nutrients
- Strengthening of women's organizations, including the legalization process.
- Technical assistance to improve women's access to credit and inputs for associative marketing and other economic activities
- Capacity building of women for leadership roles and diversification as leaders.
- Support and train rural women for rural development and organization; participatory diagnostic workshops and updating local and municipal development plans.
- Training at the organizational and community levels on women's rights, including reproductive rights and empowerment.
- Strengthen women's influence in the municipal development councils, municipal codes, agendas and programmes for local territorial development.
- Increase knowledge of the laws, regulations, policies, plans and programs, related to agriculture and rural development, to ensure meeting the rights of rural women.

- Promote dialogues for the process of updating and implementing policies for agricultural and rural development that incorporate the rights of women, as well as institutional environments for their participation and leadership.
- Systematize good practices, lessons learned, results and impact.

Ethiopia: The Joint Programme in Ethiopia is based on the vision and the strategy of the Government and on the lessons learned from the activities of the Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs (MOWCYA). In particular, it builds on successful experiences and lessons learned from ongoing operations that support the GoE to achieve targets set by Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) for greater gender equality and women's empowerment. It aims to scale up the best practices identified and synergies between the ongoing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Joint Programme, the WFP-assisted Purchase for Progress (P4P) supporting access to markets, the IFAD-funded support to micro-financing under the Rural Financial Intermediation Programme (RUFIP) framework and the support provided by FAO and WFP under the Household Asset Building Programme, which is part of the National Food Security Programme. The JP is embedded in national operations and the ownership of national partners, as demonstrated by the strong commitment from the institutions involved in coordinating the process.

The programme, which will be validated through an inclusive consultation process, includes:

- Increasing the productive potential of women smallholder farmers through strengthening their access to and control over productive resources and services critical to food security and nutrition.
- Creating and developing rural women-led associations and small-scale businesses, enhancing their income opportunities and promoting their linkages to markets. Women will be encouraged to develop relevant entrepreneurial and leadership skills, especially for other income generating activities.
- Creating a credit line under RWEE for helping women engaged in agricultural, agro-pastoral and off-farm activities, to access financial services.
- Supporting the formation of groups of very poor and vulnerable women and building women's capacity to participate in the preparation of Women's Action Plans for receiving financial support through the credit line.
- Strengthening women's socio economic organizations, such as RUSACCOs, and creating networking opportunities to ensure increased access to markets and trade of women's products.
- Strengthening women's leadership, participation and representation in RUSACCOs and cooperatives, and their use of cooperative services and increasing their sales to market through cooperatives.

g. Task Force on Gender and Trade.

Three members of the Task Force on Gender and Trade - UNCTAD, the World Bank and ITC - organized on 20 January 2014 a session on 'Women and Trade in Africa: Realizing the Potential'. The session was held on UNCTAD premises in Geneva and was attended by over 100 representatives of the Geneva-based diplomatic, academic and civil society community. Participants heard that there is enormous potential for African countries to increase their trade regionally and globally and women could play a key role in exploiting this potential if the obstacles they face are recognized and addressed. Trade also can serve as a powerful tool for women's empowerment and inclusive development in Africa. By looking at a number of country experiences, experts from the three organizations highlighted that inequality in incomes and employment opportunities, and restricted access to productive resources, services, training, market information and market networks remained persistent problems for women in Africa. This was despite the notable improvements in female participation in education and political activities that have been recorded in the same countries. Moreover, experts noted that trade integration

did not automatically reduce existing gender disparities. Designing policies to recognize this should be a key priority in setting the global agenda for trade and development after 2015.

Activities organized by members of the Task Force on Gender and Trade to which UNCTAD participated

- UNCTAD participated in the 2013 Gender Academy organized in Turin, Italy, by the ILO/International Training Centre, in partnership with the UN Women Training Centre. A global international event on gender and employment, the Gender Academy gathered international experts on gender and development-related issues from all over the world with a view to offering a forum for discussion and sharing of experiences. UNCTAD delivered a Master Class - on gender inequality and its effects on women in the labour market - and an Elective Workshop on how to assess the effect of trade on women's wellbeing and economic empowerment.
- In November 2013, UNCTAD delivered a presentation during the joint biennial workshop of the OECD-DAC gender network (GENDERNET) and IANWGE on women's economic empowerment titled "The Gender Dimension of Trade and Relevance for the post-2015 framework". Concrete proposals were advanced by UNCTAD on possible targets and indicators that could be considered for a specific goal on gender equality and for the broader post-2015 agenda, including poverty eradication and economic development.
- UNCTAD contributed to the Knowledge Gateway for Women's Economic Empowerment managed by UN Women.

Activities conducted by UNCTAD of relevance for the Task Force on Gender and Trade

- UNCTAD is working to enhance the capacity of developing countries to mainstream gender in trade policy through a portfolio of country case studies and a series of dedicated national seminars on trade and gender. The study "Who is benefitting from trade liberalization in Angola? A gender perspective" was published in November 2013 (in English and in Portuguese, to facilitate greater local diffusion). The study seeks to explore the impacts of Angola's integration into the world economy mainly as an oil exporter, and in particular, to analyze whether there is a gender bias in the effects of trade. A national seminar was conducted in November 2013 in Luanda to launch the study and share methodology and research approaches with government officials and national stakeholders. Angola is in the process of preparing its graduation from the LDC status. Participants agreed that women's economic empowerment would contribute to ensure that this process evolves smoothly. The findings of the study and the outcomes of the national seminar will contribute to the formulation of the 2015-2019 UNDAF programme framework. The national seminar was organized with the support of the UN Country Office and was opened by the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative.
- UNCTAD has developed the first part of a teaching package on trade and gender. As part of the package, five introductory multimedia presentations on the issues of trade and gender and a pilot version of a teaching manual were produced. The manual is composed by two volumes: the substantive/qualitative part focuses on the pathways of interaction between trade and gender, while the technical part explores the methodological approaches that can be used to analyze the trade-gender linkages. The package is addressed to university lecturers from developing and transition countries and is designed to enable them to integrate trade and gender issues into their teaching. Other actors including policymakers and trade negotiators, as well as gender specialists and the UN staff in the Headquarters and Country Offices may also benefit from the teaching material.

h. Task Force on Gender and Climate Change

IATF work around the United Nations Framework Convention on climate change (UNFCCC)

In 2013 the IATF collaborated with partners in Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), and the Women and Gender Constituency on gender and climate change side events and activities at the UNFCCC interessionals, June 3rd -14th June 2013, in Bonn, Germany.

At COP 19 in October/November 2013, Warsaw, Poland IATF members collaborated with partners in the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) and the Women and Gender Constituency in activities on gender and climate change including participation at the in-session Gender Workshop panel, which focused on supporting government parties to implement the COP 18 Gender Decision. In preparation for this workshop, IATF members liaised with the Gender Decision WG to strategize and develop joint messaging. During the workshop UNDP spoke on gender-sensitive climate policy and discussed, based on its experience in the field, the need for increased technical support to and enhancing capacities of governments, both women and men policy makers and practitioners in the ‘benefits of’ and the ‘how to’ integrate social and gender sensitive considerations into climate change policies and programmes at all levels. (COP19 Gender: [Workshop agenda](#)).

Building on the positive discussions around the Gender Workshop, Parties and Observers worked together to propose a Gender Framework, which was then forwarded to the Gender Contact Group (made up of Parties to the UNFCCC), which was held on 13 November. This Framework proposed key steps and recommendations, which could be taken by Parties to promote gender balance and the elaboration of gender sensitive policies in an effective and efficient manner. The work of the Gender Contact Group focused on putting draft language and decision text together for the gender discussion during the negotiations. The conclusions and language proposed by the Gender Contract Group (available [here](#)) drew upon and incorporated many of the recommendations put forth within the Gender Framework. Through continued outreach and advocacy efforts, this proposed text was adopted by the Parties. This decision is a significant step towards providing concrete action and way forward in implementing the COP18 Gender Decision.

Collaborating alongside its colleagues in the GGCA, and Gender Decision WG, IATF members also participated in the COP-19 Gender Day (19 November). Here, Helen Clark the UNDP Administrator and Lakshmi Puri, UN Women Deputy Executive Director served as a panelist on the UNFCCC high-level event, “Vision 50/50: Women for Action on Climate Change that was chaired by Christiana Figueres the UNFCCC Executive Secretary. This event was very well attended and panelists provided insightful comments on the need to improve women’s participation in decision-making processes and increase gender-responsive climate action.

Additionally, UNDP, in collaboration with the UN Interagency Taskforce on Gender and Climate Change, also worked with its various departments to provide support to various other COP high-level events and integrate gender considerations into their panel discussions. These events included:

UNDP’s side event (14 November) on, “Capacity Building for Climate Finance Management: Recent Experiences and Readiness Tools”

- WHO’s side event (19 November) on, “Building resilience and reducing climate risks to support NAPs with focus on Food Security, Health & DRR”
- UN-REDD’s side event (20 November) on, “Five years of the UN-REDD Programme: What can we learn for scaling up REDD+?”

IATF collaboration with other IANWGE Task Forces, post-2015 agenda, and CEB HLCP Working Group on Climate Change

Members of the IATF closely collaborated and participated in the **CEB HLCP Working Group on Climate Change**. The two working groups closely coordinated activities to integrate gender at the June Inter-sessional, and at COP 19 in Warsaw.

Further, the HLCP shared with the IATF information on gender entry points in the CEB HLCP WGCC. Including on the Secretary-General's 2013-2015 Climate Change Strategy; ii) the CEB HLCP Status of Implementation and Planned Activities for 2013; (iii) the CEB HLCP Climate change related reports and inputs to COP-19 and COP-20 by the UN System.

A briefing on the process, activities, and gender entry points in the **post 2015 framework** was shared with the IATF members and members explored opportunities to apply lessons learned in the work on gender and climate change to inform the post-2015 development framework

Other Activities by IATF members

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In 2013, FAO released English, French and Spanish versions of a training guide on Gender and Climate Change Research in Agriculture and Food Security. The guide was produced in collaboration with CCAFS and provides users with resources and participatory action research tools for collecting, analysing and sharing gender-sensitive information about agricultural communities, households and individuals who are facing climatic changes. See: <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/gender/en/>

During February 2014, FAO has been holding an online learning event on gender and climate-smart agriculture. The Programme of the event consists of three webinars (90 minutes each) and online discussions on the linkages between gender, agriculture and climate change. The event is organized within the Community of Practice for Climate Change Mitigation in Agriculture of the MICCA Programme in collaboration with colleagues and partners. Key questions of the learning event included:

- Why gender matters when enhancing food security and increasing the uptake of climate-smart agriculture practices?
- What are the available tools that can help gather information on gender, and advance gender mainstreaming in agriculture?
- What are the best case studies of gender-sensitive climate-smart agriculture practices?
- What kind of climate-smart policies, financing structures and practices are needed for more equality in the agriculture sector?

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). UNDP Published the Asia-Pacific thematic training modules and policy briefs on gender and climate change. These resources are centered around various climate change themes of relevance to the Asia-Pacific region and include discussions on general overview issues, adaptation, disaster risk reduction, equitable energy access and climate finance. The knowledge products are designed to facilitate the work of regional and national cadres of experts, practitioners, policy makers and other partners in mainstreaming gender into climate change policy and programming. These Asia Pacific thematic new knowledge products were successfully launched at COP19, and can be downloaded by clicking [here](#). Various efforts have been undertaken to widely disseminate these knowledge products, across various platforms and networks.

UNDP and UN Women in collaboration with the GGCA Climate Finance WG, supported efforts on advocacy and awareness raising activities relating to gender and climate finance in the Green Climate

Fund. Further, UNDP worked with the UN-REDD Programme to finalize and disseminate the UN-REDD Guidance Note on Gender sensitive REDD+, the guidance note can be found [here](#).

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The African Centre for Gender and Development (ACG) and the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) organised a joint Expert Group Meeting on “Gendered Dimensions of Climate Change in Africa” on 17 – 18 September 2013. As part of its programme on Gender and Climate Change, ECA issued a joint call for papers in July 2012, which was intended to provide an opportunity for experts in gender and climate change to generate well-researched technical papers on various aspects of gender and climate change, as well as policy options that will be used to inform ECA’s further work with its African member States. After a careful review of all the submissions, five abstracts were selected for further development into fully-fledged papers with a view to contribute towards building a body of knowledge in this area on the African continent, this work is ongoing.

i. Task Force on Gender and Migration

The members of the Task Force have collaborated, including through the Global Migration Group (GMG) and its related work streams, to advance the gender equality and women’s rights dimensions of migration. The activities and achievements of the Task Force in 2013 include a) the integration of the gender dimensions of migration into global norm setting and global policy development and b) the strengthening of partnerships and advocacy efforts in support of regional and national priorities on gender, migration and development.

Integration of the gender dimensions of migration into global norm setting and global policy development

IOM and UNFPA, in collaboration with the members of the Global Migration Group, proposed recommendations and outcomes for the 2013 United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, including recommendations and outcomes related to the protection and promotion of women migrants’ human rights. As a result of this effort, the adopted Declaration on International Migration and Development reaffirmed the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms especially of women migrants, regardless of their immigration status while stressing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in this regard. It also recognizes the need to address the special situation and vulnerability of migrant women and girls through gender sensitive policies and laws, institutions and programmes to combat gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and discrimination against them, and emphasizes the need to establish appropriate measures for the protection of women migrant workers in all sectors, including domestic work.

In close collaboration with the members of the Task Force, UN Women prepared the Secretary General’s Report A/68/178 “Violence against Women Migrant Workers.” UN Women also attended the informal negotiations of the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/137 “Violence against Women Migrant Workers” and monitored as well as tracked developments in the resolution.

Strengthening of partnerships and advocacy efforts in support of regional and national priorities on gender, migration and development

With the objective of including the gender equality as well as women’s rights and empowerment in the outcomes of key intergovernmental processes such as CSW 57 or the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), members of the Task Force jointly organized advocacy events and developed

advocacy and training materials, background papers and a thematic report. Members of the Task Force also developed joint global programmes.

During the CSW 57, UN Women in collaboration with ITUC, developed the briefing kit titled “Domestic Workers Count Too: Implementing Protections for Domestic Workers” which was launched during a joint side event on domestic workers, co-sponsored by the Government of the Philippines, UN Women and ITUC.⁶

OHCHR led on the development of a background paper titled “Migration as an enabler for inclusive social development” for the 3rd thematic meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) on empowerment and assets, which took place in November 2013. OHCHR also coordinated inputs by the GMG to the background paper for Round Table 2 of the 2013 United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development titled “Measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to women and children, as well to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and to ensure regular, orderly, and safe migration.”

UN Women in collaboration with UNICEF provided technical support to the development of a chapter on “Adolescents and Young Women Migrants” which forms part of the wider joint GMG thematic report on “Adolescents, Youth and Migration.”

The UN Women Training Centre in Danto Domingo developed and published a training manual titled “Gender on the Move. Working on the Migration-Development Nexus from a Gender Perspective.” The manual aims to build the gender analysis capacity of those working in the field of migration and development to bring about a model of development that is centered on people, human rights, and on the principle of gender equality. It also offers a series of tools to help design programmes and policies that strengthen the positive effects of migration in terms of development, both in origin and destination countries.⁷

In collaboration with the OHCHR, UN Women developed a global programme and mobilized funding from the EC, to strengthen the international human rights mechanisms, national oversight institutions and governments in selected number of countries, to ensure accountability to women migrant workers and strengthen women migrant workers’ organizations and their support groups.⁸

In collaboration with UN Women, the ILO developed a global programme and mobilized funding from the EC, to strengthen the knowledge base on migrant domestic workers for policy action and strengthen domestic workers’ organizations and networks in selected migration corridors.⁹

To advance gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of migration in selected countries, UN Women provided advisory services and technical support to the capacity building of local

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http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/3/UNWomen_IUTC_Fact_sheets%20pdf.pdf

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<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2013/12/gender-on-the-move>

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Global programme titled “Promoting and protecting women migrant workers labour and human rights: engaging with international and national human rights mechanisms to enhance accountability” with pilots in Moldova, Mexico and the Philippines, starting date Feb 2014 for 36 months, funded by the European Commission.

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ILO-led global programme titled “Global Action programme on migrant domestic workers and their families” implemented in various migration corridors, Starting date Feb 2014 for 36 months, funded by the European Commission.

authorities on the migration for development nexus from a gender perspective and to the facilitation of partnership building and knowledge sharing amongst local authorities.¹⁰

Key priorities for 2014

In 2014, the Task Force will continue to work towards advancing the gender equality, women's rights and empowerment in the context of migration while building on the achievements from 2013. The main priorities for 2014 include the following:

- Develop a multiannual work plan for the Task Force, including resource mobilization plan, time frame, funding sources, lead entities and regular meeting schedule;
- Ensure that the recommended follow-up actions of the GMG to the 2013 United Nations General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development address the gender equality and women's rights dimensions of migration;
- Continue ensuring that the gender dimensions of migration are integrated into global norm setting and global policy development in ways that influence the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This would include ensuring that indicators on migration and migrants developed by the GMG and its work streams for the Post-2015 Development agenda are gender-sensitive and disaggregated by sex;
- Continue to strengthen partnerships and joint advocacy in support of regional and national priorities on gender, migration and development including with social partners, civil society, national governments and UN Country Teams. Priorities will include the 2015 review of the Beijing Platform of Action, the ratification and implementation of the ILO Convention 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, the implementation of the afore mentioned global programmes and cross-fertilization of experiences and good practices between the field and global levels of engagement and integration of those with the ongoing work of the task force.

¹⁰ UNDP led global programme titled "Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMEDI)"; in its second phase, countries include Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Philippines, Nepal; December 2012-November 2015; UN Women's support mainly focusses on advisory and capacity building support to mainstream gender as well as knowledge management to strengthen the gender, women's rights and empowerment dimension of migration and development.

Annex: List of participants

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