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**Inter-Agency Network on Women and
Gender Equality**

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

New York, 14-15 March 2019

The 18th annual session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) was held on 14-15 March 2019 in New York. Discussions focused on thematic and emerging issues of system-wide relevance; the implementation of the Secretary-General's system-wide gender parity strategy; the constitution of IANWGE time-bound task forces and working groups for 2019-2020; IANWGE's engagement with the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25); the role of inter-agency collaboration to promote a gender-responsive approach to innovation; and accountability mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the UN system. The session also featured an interactive dialogue with the Chair of the Network, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women, on how IANWGE may leverage upcoming commemorations in 2020 related to Beijing+25, the 40th anniversary of CEDAW, the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security, and the fifth anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to catalyze action on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

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Opening Session

The eighteenth annual session of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) was held from 14-15 March 2019 in New York. Ms. Āsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women, and Vice-Chair of IANWGE addressed IANWGE members during the opening session. Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Director, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women, and Secretary of IANWGE served as the moderator for this session.

a) Introduction and Opening Remarks – Āsa Regnér, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

At the outset, Ms. Regnér expressed her appreciation for the Network's efforts during the past year, and for the members' dedication to gender equality and the empowerment of women within their respective mandates. Reflecting on the current political climate and the recent pushback against women's rights and gender equality, the Vice-Chair stressed the importance of platforms such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). She noted that the 63rd session of CSW had attracted more participants than ever before and emphasized the need to maintain this momentum to ensure that progress on gender equality is not reversed.

Ms. Regnér also highlighted that at the United Nations, the Secretary-General has placed gender equality and women's empowerment at the forefront of his agenda. In particular, he has made gender parity in the UN System as a key priority. The Secretary-General has also further emphasized the importance of ending sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.

Ms. Regnér informed the Network that in 2020, to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 64th session of CSW (CSW-64) as well as the 74th session of the General Assembly (GA) will focus on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly (Beijing +25). A Global Forum featuring civil society and other stakeholders is also due to take place in 2020. She urged IANWGE members to actively engage in the Beijing+25 commemoration.

On UN Reform, Ms. Regnér noted that it came at a pivotal time for the gender equality agenda, given the widespread recognition of the centrality of gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). UN Women, for its part, has been actively engaged in UN Reform through its coordination function and has consistently advocated for a strengthened and well-coordinated UN development system that supports the advancement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

b) Adoption of Agenda – Aparna Mehrotra, IANWGE Secretary

The Secretary welcomed the members to the session and expressed her appreciation to all who had contributed to the preparations of the annual meeting, as well as to those members who volunteered to participate as discussants and moderators in the various sessions. Reiterating the message of the Vice-Chair, the Secretary emphasized the significance of Beijing+25 and encouraged the Network to engage in this process. The Secretary presented the 2019 annual meeting agenda for adoption. (See Annex 1). After presentation by the Secretary, the annual meeting's agenda was adopted.

Session I: Thematic and Emerging Issues of System-Wide Relevance

The objective of the first session was to update IANWGE members on issues of emerging and topical relevance to gender equality and the empowerment of women and to identify opportunities for enhanced inter-agency collaboration. The session was moderated by Ms. Ngone Diop, Chief Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, UNECA, and included five presentations by expert speakers, followed by a plenary discussion.

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

In her remarks, Ms. Kannisto noted that that in addition to Beijing +25, 2020 also marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the [Security Council resolution 1325](#) on women, peace and security. In this regard, Member States and civil society have identified key concerns based on the greatest needs and focus areas within the realm of women, peace and security. These issues were brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Secretary-General, and fall under the following six areas:

- i. Human rights defenders and civil society:* Human rights defenders, including women's human rights defenders, continue to be at risk in conflict and post-conflict settings. It is therefore imperative that the international community continue to demand protection of human right defenders in conflict settings.
- ii. Financing:* Currently, financing for gender equality in conflict areas is at a record low. This trend must be reversed.
- iii. Economy related to peace and security processes:* Women are often absent in decision-making during post-disaster reconstruction and peacebuilding processes. This absence is closely related to their lack of access to, and control over resources, including valuable

natural resources and must be urgently addressed.

- iv. *Women as peacekeepers*: The situation remains the same today as it was 20 years ago: only 3-4 percent of peacekeepers are women. Unless more women are represented in police forces and the military at the country level, they will not be included as peacekeepers in the international arena.
- v. *Conflict assessments and analyses are devoid of gender equality dimensions*: Gender analyses must form part of the strategic analyses undertaken by the UN when it plans and operates in peace and security settings. The UN must lead by example in this area.
- vi. *Women's participation in peace processes*: The UN must lead by example by including women in peace tables and peace-related processes.

b) *Spotlight Initiative – Presentation by Erin Kenny, Senior Technical Advisor, EVAW*

Ms. Kenny noted that the Spotlight Initiative (Spotlight) is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Launched in September 2017 with a seed funding commitment of €500 million from the European Union, the initiative targets 25 countries in 5 regions over a 5-year period and represents an unprecedented global effort to invest in gender equality and women's empowerment as a precondition and driver for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The implementation of Spotlight relies on broad partnerships with governments and civil society actors and engages non-traditional stakeholders such as the private sector.

In the context of the UN reform, Spotlight represents a new model for inter-agency collaboration in the UN System that leverages each agency's mandate to reach common goals. Competition between agencies is a common obstacle in large inter-agency initiatives. To mitigate this challenge, Spotlight places an emphasis on accountability, transparency, and documents lessons learned and good practices throughout its process.

c) *Joint UN Statement to End Discrimination in Health Care Settings – Luisa Cabal, UNAIDS*

Ms. Cabal focused her presentation on the Joint UN Statement to End Discrimination in Health Care Settings. She noted that discrimination in health care settings is widespread across the world and takes many forms. It violates the most fundamental human rights protected in international treaties and in national laws and constitutions. The Joint UN Statement to End Discrimination in Health Care Settings is an inter-agency political initiative that aims to end discrimination in the health care sector. The Joint UN Statement addresses concerns such as barriers to health,

discrimination in access to health, and discrimination amongst service providers within the health sector, particularly women nurses and health practitioners.

One of the strongest aspects of the Joint UN Statement is its aim to support Member States to repeal discriminatory laws, including those that criminalize or otherwise prohibit gender expression, same sex conduct, adultery, drug use or possession of drugs for personal use, sexual and reproductive health care services, including information, and overly broad criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, exposure or transmission. The Joint UN Statement also provides a basis to train partners on health reform laws, and on intersectional approaches to health care that address multiple discriminations.

During the plenary discussion that followed presentations (a) (b) and (c), members emphasized the need to leverage IANWGE, and the uniquely cross-cutting nature of gender equality and women's empowerment, to produce more effective results on the ground. Members also discussed the current resource-constrained environment and its implications for gender equality programming.

d) OHCHR's work on Women Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space – Veronica Birga, Chief of the Women's Rights and Gender Section

The presentation focused on the shrinking civic space for human rights defenders, and the urgent need for strengthened collaboration to extend support to feminist movements and women human rights defenders. Women human rights defenders are subject to the same types of risks as any human rights defender, but as women, they are also targeted for or exposed to gender-specific threats and gender-specific violence. Between 2015 and 2017, over 1000 human rights defenders were killed, of which almost 200 were women.

OHCHR is mapping the UN System's efforts to protect civic space and human rights defenders. OHCHR also monitors attacks on human rights defenders and addresses the specific threats faced by women human rights defenders. In addition, OHCHR conducts interviews with women human rights defenders to understand their situation and address their specific needs. A [report](#) of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders was released in January 2019.

e) Report on Progress of the World's Women: Families in a Changing World – Laura Turquet, UN Women

The upcoming edition of UN Women's flagship report, *Progress of the World's Women* will be launched in June 2019 and is entitled *Families in a Changing World*. The report reframes the issue of families from a gender equality perspective, and argues that families should be places of safety, dignity and rights, and a springboard for women and girls to thrive. The report aims to highlight the need for family-friendly policies that advance women's and girls' rights within diverse family

forms. Its data focuses on households, and it defines families broadly as a space of love, care, and resource sharing, as well as a place where identity is formed.

Although there is great diversity in family forms across the globe, there is no inter-governmentally agreed upon definition of family. The report addresses this diversity of family forms (only 1/3 of families are nuclear), including rural families and LGBTI families. Furthermore, to ensure that women can thrive and enjoy their human rights, irrespective of their family structure, a range of enabling policies are needed to respond to the different family forms, based on the realities of contemporary families.

Session II: Representation of Women in the UN System

The objective of the session was to update IANWGE members on the implementation of the Secretary-General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity and the related Enabling Environment Guidelines. The session was moderated by Ms. Kawinzi Muiu, Director of Gender at World Food Programme, and included a presentation and plenary discussion with Ms. Katja Pehrman, Senior Adviser and Focal Point for Women in the UN System at UN Women, and Ms. Laura Emerson, Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist at UN Women.

a) Katja Pehrman, Senior Adviser and Focal Point for Women in the UN System

In her opening remarks, Ms. Pehrman highlighted that the Secretary-General considers gender parity to be a priority both personally as well as for the UN system. Within this context and based on the Secretary General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity, all UN entities have been requested to create an implementation plan on how to reach gender parity by 2030. For its part, UN Women has offered substantive guidance and expertise to UN entities by showcasing system-wide good practices, organizing capacity building sessions for gender focal points, and providing data and regular updates to focal points and the General Assembly on UN Women's gender equality drive for a Planet 50-50 by 2030.

UN Women has also created a separate 'UN Women Implementation Plan' which includes (i) good practice guidelines for an enabling environment, (ii) a strategy to increase women peacekeepers, (iii) internal and external information campaigns, (iv) targeted outreach efforts to attract female candidates and (v) civil society shadow reporting. UN Women has also finalized two guidelines related to the Secretary-General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity, following an inclusive and participatory process:

- i. *Enabling Environment Guidelines for the United Nations System*, a concise guidance containing recommendations and practical measures for all UN staff on:
 - Family-friendly policies;

- Workplace flexibility; and
- Standards of conduct against discrimination, harassment and abuse of authority.

UN Women has recommended developing a proposal for standardized parental leave of six months across the UN System. To enhance UN Women's efforts, Anne Hathaway, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador, met the Secretary-General as well as the Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission to highlight the importance of paid parental leave across the UN System.

- ii. *Supplementary Guidance on the Enabling Environment Guidelines by UN Women*, a more comprehensive version of the guidelines that, in addition to those measures contained in the concise version, also covers:
- Recruitment, which is relevant for gender parity efforts since women comprise fewer than half of UN applicants. This guidance includes recommendations on how to attract and retain women in the UN System.
 - Talent Management, for instance WHO has incorporated recruitment targets for achieving gender equality into supervisors' performance evaluation cycles;
 - Change management and implementation, which is key to any change, especially in the UN context.

Gender focal points/focal points for women within the UN System represent a good example of effective coordination and system-wide collaboration. Gender focal points are not required to be human resources experts; however, they need to work collaboratively with human resources colleagues especially on the implementation of the 'Enabling Environment Guidelines for the UN System'. UN Women leads and collaborates with the gender focal points network by providing guidance, recommendations, expertise, capacity-development and inter-agency knowledge sharing on gender parity issues and good practices.

UN Women is mandated by UN Member States to produce a biennial Secretary General's Report on the Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations System. This report will be released in 2019 and includes gender-disaggregated data on the representation of women by entity, level, location and nationality, and throughout women's career life-cycle including their recruitment, career advancement and separation.

To conclude, Ms. Pehrman shared some achievements since the launch of the Secretary-General's System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity in September 2017. The Secretary-General has led by example by attaining gender parity in his own senior management group as well as among the Resident Coordinators and the heads of the Regional Commissions. The Secretary-General has also established the 'Emergency Working Group on Gender Parity', which focuses on increasing the number of women in peace operations in the field.

In a discussion following the presentation, IANWGE members discussed ways in which they could counteract ‘backlash’ against gender parity efforts in the UN System. Ms. Perham advised members to engage men in order to move forward and to take into consideration that this process requires a change of attitudes, the use of appropriate language, and most importantly it is a long-term goal that requires time.

Session III: IANWGE Time-bound Task Forces and Standing Working Groups

The objective of this session was to discuss the reconstitution of IANWGE’s historic working groups to strengthen the Network’s contributions to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. The session was moderated by UN Women, and included group discussions followed by plenary presentations.

a) Working Group 1: 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women/Beijing +25

The proposed working group will implement IANWGE endorsed proposals for engagement in the Beijing +25 process. Some possible ideas for the working group to take up are as follows:

- Support the Beijing+25 assessment to be undertaken by IANWGE members on the UN System’s support for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs over the last five years. This assessment will be led by a consultant with the support of UN Women.
- Prepare a joint statement by the Principals of IANWGE member entities reiterating their commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action.
- Develop a joint advocacy video on Beijing+25 linking it to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).
- Re-brand and reinvigorate IANWGE against the backdrop of Beijing+25 and advocate for strengthened system-wide gender mainstreaming.
- Emphasize the regional and country level operational results of member agencies; advocate for these results to be considered/ included during the Beijing+25 process.

b) Working Group 2: Gender Equality Financing

The objective of this proposed working group is to galvanize action across the UN System for increased and targeted investments for gender equality and women’s empowerment. The working group may take up the following potential initiatives:

- Establish a Gender Equality Fund, managed by UN Women, to finance gender equality across the UN System.

- Analyze the status of the current gender architecture in the UN System to identify gaps and challenges and accordingly make a case for greater gender equality financing.
- Strengthen IANWGE's advocacy for gender equality financing in the context of the Beijing+25 review.
- Advocate for gender equality markers to be made mandatory in the UN System.
- Explore innovative gender financing models, including at country level, and identify concrete actions and proposals to be undertaken. Advocate for women's leadership and capacity building and make a strong investment case for gender equality and women's empowerment.

c) Working Group 3: Rural and Indigenous Women

The working group will examine the situation of rural and indigenous women. Within this context, the working group may take up any of the following initiatives:

- Elevate the issues faced by rural and indigenous women on the Network's agenda.
- Consider how the Beijing+25 process can more effectively address the issues faced by rural and indigenous women.
- Enlarge the space for rural and indigenous women to be an integral part of the Beijing+25 review and beyond by leveraging IANWGE members' expertise and networks.
- Facilitate the participation of organizations focused on rural women and indigenous women in the Beijing+25 discussions to ensure gender-sensitive rural development.

d) Working Group 4: Women with Disabilities

The working group will advocate for women and girls with disabilities. In the group discussion, the following ideas emerged for the working group to consider:

- Advocate for women with disabilities.
- Promote knowledge sharing on women with disabilities.
- Support capacity building efforts in this area of work.
- Support resource mobilization.

e) Working Group 5: Frontier Issues

The objective of this working group is to undertake a periodic analysis of frontier issues, such as artificial intelligence, ageing, and disability, and identify entry points for the integration of gender considerations and Network engagement. The following ideas emerged in discussion for consideration by this working group:

- Promote girls' increased engagement in STEM.
- Consider the future of e-government services (digital government) from a gender perspective.
- Identify barriers and opportunities in the use of the latest technological advancements for women and girls, considering accessibility, inclusion and women's rights.
- Consider the need for training and enhanced global internet protection measures in respect of women's and girls' physical and technological security.
- Leverage the use of technology for food security and water provision.
- Explore ways in which technology can contribute to the women, peace and security agenda.
- Explore how technology can remove barriers to access to education (including online education) for girls with disabilities.
- Consider social inclusion and protection issues concerning the situation of migrant women and girls who deal with multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (unemployment; discrimination in the labor market, trafficking and sexual/labor exploitation).
- Consider the impact of technology on health rights and access to services for migrant women and girls; and unpaid care for the elderly.

Proposed workplan:

- Focus on the use of technology, health rights, e-governance and migration and link these to at least 4 of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action.
- The Public Administration Section in DESA offered to support the collection of case studies that showcase how technology/e-government can help to improve and change women's and girls' lives.
- Organize a side-event during CSW-64 (2020).

f) Working Group 6: Gender Equality and Climate change

The objective of this proposed working group is to integrate gender perspectives in climate change and related intergovernmental processes and outcomes. Due to the UN Environment Assembly taking place concurrently in Nairobi most of the members representing this area were not present in the meeting. Interested members of this working group will convene online at a later date.

Session IV: Beijing+25: Network Engagement

The objective of the session was to brief IANWGE members on the 2020 Gender Equality moment, including preparations for Beijing+25. This opportunity provides strategic entry points to leverage inter-agency collaboration to strengthen commitments and catalyze action on gender

equality. The session was moderated by Ms. Valentina Resta, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, DESA, and included two presentations and one interactive discussion.

a) *The 2020 Gender Equality moment - Lopa Banerjee, Director, Civil Society Division UN Women*

Ms. Banerjee provided an overview of the upcoming milestones for the Beijing +25 commemoration. She stressed the need for all UN entities, and IANWGE as a Network, to capitalize on the strategic moment that 2020 will present for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Ms. Banerjee noted that while significant progress has been made in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action, this progress has not been even or sustained. In this context, she highlighted the current global political context and its implications for gender equality.

Moving forward, if rapid and irreversible progress towards gender equality is to be achieved, a new model of transformative change is required. The new model must be underpinned by the following drivers of change: (i) stronger gender equality laws and policies, (ii) increased resources for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, (iii) transformed social norms, stereotypes and attitudes, (iv) increased sex-disaggregated data, (v) strengthened monitoring and evaluation, (vi) revitalized public debate, and (vii) resourced and strengthened young women's activism.

The run-up to Beijing +25 presents a set of processes that can galvanize action towards gender equality:

- *National reviews*: The Beijing +25 national reviews will be conducted by Member States with multi-stakeholder engagement, including civil society.
- *Regional reviews*: National reviews will be followed by regional reviews. Multi-stakeholder civil society regional reviews will take place alongside each of the five regional reviews.
- *CSW-64*: National and regional reviews will lead up to CSW-64 which will host the global review process.
- *The Global Forum*: The Global Forum will be hosted by France and Mexico in 2020, with concurrent forums happening around the world. Drawing from the processes preceding it, the Forum will be a civil society-led space that brings together policy makers, the UN System and other stakeholders to identify a critical agenda for the acceleration, implementation and accountability of the Beijing Platform for Action.
- *General Assembly*: The agenda identified at the Global Forum will inform the Beijing +25 high-level meeting at the General Assembly.

The UN system plays a key role in bringing together diverse stakeholders throughout these processes. In the context of IANWGE's engagement in Beijing +25, Ms. Banerjee suggested the development of a joint advocacy product highlighting lessons learned and good practices to inform the UN System as strategies of resilience are developed in the face of rising regressions.

b) Latin America and the Caribbean regional preparations for Beijing +25 - Nicole Bidegain Ponte, Social Affairs Officers, ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs

Ms. Bidegain briefed the Network on the Latin America and the Caribbean's (LAC) regional preparations for Beijing +25, and related opportunities for collaboration. LAC Member States have gathered at the regional level to discuss the advancement of women's rights and gender equality since 1997. This regional mechanism includes a Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held every 3 years with government entities, civil society, and the UN, which addresses concrete challenges and gaps on the implementation of women's rights and gender equality in the region.

The Regional Conferences have used each anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (+5, +10, +15) as an opportunity to review regional progress in implementation of the Platform and analyze how regional processes feed into the global review. The upcoming XIV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in November 2019, is a key opportunity to make synergies with the Beijing +25 process. IANWGE members were invited to contribute to the Position Document of the XIV Regional Conference.

c) Proposals emanating for Network's engagement in Beijing +25 - Shivangi Shrivastava, Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist, UN Women

On behalf of the IANWGE Secretariat, Ms. Shrivastava presented proposals for Network engagement in the Beijing+25 process. Beijing+25 provides a strategic opportunity for the UN system to renew, both collectively and as individual entities, its commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Against this background, IANWGE considered the Beijing+25 process as an agenda item at two previous inter-sessional meetings held on 30 October 2018 and 25 February 2019 respectively. Proposals emerging from these inter-sessional meetings for IANWGE's further review and endorsement are as follows:

1. *Conduct a system-wide review and assessment:* Conduct an assessment of how UN System entities have supported the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda, including through gender mainstreaming, since the last review in 2015. The assessment serves as a way of holding the UN System

accountable for supporting and advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

2. *Initiate High-level political mobilization:* This may take the following forms:
 - *A high-level event* that features heads of entities to launch the assessment and endorse a Commitment Statement for Beijing+25 and Beyond.
 - *Prepare key messages* on Beijing +25 for governments and Member States that would include the need to link the Beijing Platform for Action to the 2030 Agenda in policy and programme development at the national level.
3. *Contribute to knowledge and evidence base:* Online discussions held around the six focus areas identified in the guidance for preparation of national level reviews for Beijing+25.
4. *Compilation of good practices:* Collect and compile good practice examples and lessons learned on gender mainstreaming in the 12 critical areas of concern and in the implementation of the SDGs to add to the knowledge base on gender mainstreaming in thematic issues.
5. *Leverage new constituencies:* Target young people, including adolescent girls, and drive youth mobilization through inter-generational dialogue on Beijing+25.
6. *Undertake public advocacy:* Launch a video campaign that adds visibility to IANWGE as a Network.

In the discussion that followed participants agreed that the Network should undertake a broad assessment of the UN System's contributions to the Beijing Platform for Action. Members also suggested that the Network undertake an analysis of one theme that is identified by IANWGE as a common goal and accelerator for gender equality, such as climate change. Several members noted for example that climate change constitutes an extremely significant gap in the Beijing Platform for Action, as the full extent of its impact was not known when the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted in 1995, whereas today it is linked across all the pillars of the UN.

Further reflecting on IANWGE's strengths and added value as a network, and the current trends in the UN System, the Network proposed the need to analyze good practices and gaps at the regional and country levels. The Network also emphasized its commitment to ensure that its engagement in Beijing +25 takes an intersectional approach, and that women's experiences are not homogenized but must be considered in all their diversity.

Session V: Interactive dialogue with the Chair of IANWGE and the Executive Director of UN Women: Enhanced advocacy and accelerated action on gender equality and the empowerment of women leading up to 2020

The session featured an interactive discussion with the Chair of the Network and Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and was moderated by Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Secretary of IANWGE.

The Chair expressed appreciation for the work that IANWGE members do within their respective entities to advocate for women and girls. As noted by the Vice-Chair of the Network during the Opening Session, the Chair further reiterated the two points that the Secretary-General highlighted in his recent Town Hall. Both points are pertinent to IANWGE members, namely, the Secretary-General's commitment to attaining gender parity at all levels, including at the middle management level where parity is hardest to materialize, and his commitment to address the issue of sexual harassment in the UN System.

In reference to Beijing +25, the Chair reiterated that in addition to Beijing+25, 2020 also marks the 40th anniversary of CEDAW, the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security and the fifth anniversary of the 2030 Agenda. This provides a strategic moment to identify and leverage opportunities for inter-agency collaboration and cooperation to strengthen commitments and catalyze action on gender equality.

The Chair presented the UN Women's upcoming Beijing +25 campaign titled *Generation Equality – Realizing Women's Rights for an Equal Future* to the Network. The Chair further stressed that this will not solely be a UN Women driven process, but instead a system-wide commemoration for which each entity's expertise should be leveraged.

The Secretary presented the following strategies for the Network's engagement in the Beijing+25 process emerging from previous deliberations (see page 14):

1. *Conduct system-side review and assessment:* An assessment of how UN System entities have supported the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda within their respective mandates since the last review in 2015. Such an assessment may identify specific system-wide gaps and challenges that the Network could systematically address in its future work.
2. *Coalesce around a thematic area in follow-up to Beijing+25:* Based on findings from the assessment, identify current key thematic areas outside of the ambit of the Beijing Platform for Action and its 12 Critical Areas of Concern around which the Network can coalesce and catalyze action. For example, climate change, artificial intelligence, intersectionality.

Reacting to the above-mentioned proposals, the Chair urged all IANWGE members to mark Beijing +25 in a manner that is forward-looking to the next 25 years. In addition, the Chair stressed the need to innovate to make the engagement meaningful and accessible to all stakeholders. She expressed the critical need to engage the women's movement in all its diversity and involve new constituencies in the Beijing+25 commemoration including the private sector, philanthropists, cultural and faith-based leaders. The importance of including youth in the Beijing +25 process to create an intergenerational agenda was also emphasized.

The Chair noted that the Global Forum will build on the national reviews, draw attention to the challenges of implementation, and ensure that the voices of civil society and the women's movement are heard. Paris and Mexico City are confirmed as 'hubs' for the Forum. UN Women also wishes to organize satellite commemorations throughout the world, to promote mass mobilization in support of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

In an interactive discussion that followed the presentation, participants expressed their gratitude to the Chair for her support to the Network. They agreed that the Beijing+25 process must include the perspectives of groups that are likely to be left behind, including persons with disabilities, rural women, indigenous women, migrant women, and women with disabilities. The UN System must also coordinate with the feminist, civil society and youth networks to bring their perspectives into the Beijing+25 process. In terms of the role of government as standard setters, members also noted that this is a moment to celebrate national gender machineries and the work they do to spearhead gender mainstreaming.

While agreeing that a self-assessment of the UN System is an effective way to coalesce around Beijing+25, members warned against being overly self-congratulatory, and to instead approach the process as a learning opportunity to identify how the UN System can further improve. Participants also expressed the need for the UN System to leverage the Beijing+25 process to address emerging issues, such as climate change, digital skills, and artificial intelligence.

Beyond the Beijing+25 commemoration, the discussion also touched upon broader issues of system-wide relevance. Participants expressed concern that substantive gender equality and women's empowerment issues risk marginalized given the strong focus on achieving gender parity. Participants also stated that anti-sexual harassment policies must be enforced throughout the System.

Session VI: Making Innovation and Technology Work for Women

The objective of this session was to understand how inter-agency collaboration can promote a gender-responsive approach to innovation, and to accelerate industry-wide change to advance

women's and girls' involvement in innovation, technology and entrepreneurship. The session was moderated by Ms. Ursula Wynhoven, ITU Representative to the United Nations, New York, and included four presentations.

a) Building inclusive solutions and bridging the digital gender divide: UNESCO's actions - Gülser Corat, Director of Gender Equality, UNESCO

Ms. Corat provided updates on UNESCO's recent work on science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and digital skills education. UNESCO research indicates that women are 25 percent more likely than men to report digital skills being an obstacle to their use of technology. Women's participation in the digital sector is declining despite huge growth in job opportunities, and they account for just one quarter of ICT graduates globally.

Global data from ITU indicates that the percentage of women using the Internet declined between 2013 and 2016. UNESCO also found that although governments have articulated digital skills strategies for education, very few speak to issues related to gender equality. The digital skills divide is also widening. To address these issues UNESCO is working within the framework of the [EQUALS](#) partnership. EQUALS, founded in 2016 by five partners (ITU, UN Women, ITC, GSMA, and UNU), is a global partnership of corporate leaders, governments, non-profit organizations, communities, and individuals around the world working together to bridge gender digital inequalities.

Ms. Corat reported that on International Women's Day 2019 UNESCO published its new report, "[I'd blush if I could: Closing gender divides in digital skills through education](#)." The paper highlights ICT gender equality paradox, which argues that the higher the level of economic development of a country, the fewer the number of women and girls engaged in STEM and digital areas. The paper also examines the rise of gendered artificial intelligence and its troubling repercussions.

In the discussion that followed the presentation, IANWGE members expressed concern over the limited opportunities for women as innovators in STEM fields. Ms. Corat echoed this concern and noted that UN Women as part of the EQUALS Coalition was working on increasing participation of women in the development of new technologies. The role of gender-sensitive curriculums was discussed as a means to increase the engagement of women and girls in STEM. The need for investment in digital skills education was also emphasized.

b) Making Innovation & Technology Work for Women - Helene Molinier, Senior Policy Advisor and Director for the Innovation and Technology Facility, UN Women

Ms. Molinier discussed UN Women's role in making innovation and technology work for women.

At UN Women, “innovation” is defined as a new solution (method/idea/product) that has the transformative ability to accelerate impact on development outcomes. UN Women has set priorities in three critical areas namely, tackling the under-representation of women as innovators, promoting gender-responsive innovation, and increasing investment in innovations for the most marginalized women.

Data shows that girls have the same ability to study science as boys, and that the issues preventing women and girls from participating are: negative stereotypes; the digital gender gap; lack of mentors and role models; lack of support networks; and lack of confidence. Research shows that women in their twenties are the least confident in themselves which is the critical time when they are likely to be choosing career paths and negotiating salaries. Thus, young women at this stage need mentorship, networks and career support or else they risk missing out on valuable opportunities in STEM fields.

As part of UN Women’s innovation strategy to drive industry-wide action in this area, UN Women has created a [Global Innovation Coalition for Change](#) (GICC) which engages the private sector to take action to ensure enabling environments that are more conducive to women. In addition, the GICC’s Gender Innovation Principles were developed to identify concrete actions that can be taken to ensure that gender perspectives are mainstreamed throughout all stages of innovation.

UN Women also recently launched a publication on Innovation for Gender Equality, which illustrates its work on innovation, including blockchain technology for women and girls in humanitarian settings and social innovation. Ms. Molinier further shared information about the [UN Innovation Network](#) (UNIN), an informal, collaborative community of UN innovators interested in sharing their expertise and experience with others to promote and advance innovation within the UN System.

During the discussion, IANWGE members reflected on the critical need to demystify the gender-related implications of innovation to ensure it is leveraged and accessible to all stakeholders. In particular, capturing and disseminating good practices was discussed as a means to increase understanding and accessibility of innovative approaches. Ms. Molinier noted that in 2019 UN-Women will be transforming its intranet page on innovation into a user-friendly format populated with simple explanations and good practice examples to maximize accessibility.

c) INDUSTRY 4.0: Gender Dimensions of the new industrial revolution - Hedda Femundsenden, Gender Coordinator, UNIDO

Ms. Femundsenden discussed the gender dimensions of the new industrial revolution. She noted that a recent IMF study found that globally, 180 million female jobs are at high risk of being displaced. Across sectors and occupations, women perform more routine tasks that do not require

as much analytical input, abstract thinking, and familiarity with the use of ICTs, which makes them more prone to the risks of automation. On the other hand, jobs in traditionally female-dominated sectors, such as education and health services, will likely expand. There is therefore a need to nurture unique human skills that artificial intelligence is unable to replicate.

Reflecting on this study, Ms. Femundsenden noted that UNIDO aims to foster more inclusive and gender-equitable industrial development and broader economic growth through three thematic areas: advancing economic competitiveness, increasing shared prosperity, and safeguarding the environment. In the context of gender equality, this means increasing women's economic empowerment through access to productive assets, women's participation in industrial sectors and decision-making processes where they have traditionally been underrepresented, and data collection and knowledge generation about the gender and industrialization nexus.

In the context of [Industry 4.0](#), UNIDO plays a role as a specialized technical agency by establishing multi-stakeholder knowledge sharing platforms, such as the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit, that discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by Industry 4.0, including for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Moving forward, UNIDO sees room to magnify its impact on the gender dimension of Industry 4.0, by using partnerships and collaboration to upscale existing and planned UNIDO initiatives. For example, one of the key areas of cooperation is a joint partnership with ITU is to reduce the digital and gender divides. Interested members of the Network were invited to express an interest in collaborating with UNIDO in this regard.

Following the presentation, participants discussed governments' and other external stakeholders' limited awareness of the gender-related implications of AI technologies. In this context, participants stressed the role of creative approaches and partnerships to strengthen advocacy in this area.

d) Machine learning to track and measure progress towards gender equality targets in UN events and governing bodies meetings - Ursula Wynhoven, ITU Representative to the United Nations, New York

Ms. Wynhoven presented a machine learning tool that tracks and measures progress towards gender equality targets at UN events and governing bodies meetings. She reported that ITU recently trialed a machine learning based software tool developed by the University of Southern California's Signal Analysis and Interpretation Laboratory and funded by Google to track and automatically obtain quantitative and qualitative data on female participation at the recent ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (PP-18).

The tool was inspired by the [Geena Davis Inclusion Quotient](#), which is used to analyze female participation in Hollywood movies. Based on the findings from the data collected, Ms. Wynhoven shared that the percentage of total delegates' speaking time that a female delegate spoke is roughly consistent with the percentage of women in attendance. ITU makes the information available and transparent through its [gender dashboard](#).

She also reported on the [EQUALS Leadership Coalition](#), which highlights [25 ways](#) that individual engineers can be more inclusive, as a complement to steps taken by employers. ITU also invited members and stakeholders to celebrate [International Girls in ICT Day](#) on 25 April, an initiative backed by all ITU Member States in ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 70.

Session VII: Moving Towards Results: Accountability for Gender Mainstreaming at the Corporate Level: UN-SWAP 2.0

The objective of this session was to acquaint IANWGE members with the most significant changes resulting from the transition of UN-SWAP 1.0 to UN-SWAP 2.0 and to review the analysis and findings of the first round of UN-SWAP 2.0 reporting. The session was moderated by Ms. Hedda Femundsden, UNIDO, and included two presentations.

- a) *Monica Dyer, Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist, UN Women - the 2018 UN-SWAP system-wide reporting results*

Ms. Dyer highlighted the changes between UN-SWAP 1 and 2.0 and presented an overview of the 2018 UN-SWAP system-wide reporting results. 2018 marked the first year of reporting against the newly enhanced UN-SWAP 2.0 accountability framework. The framework has been enhanced from UN-SWAP 1.0 in the following areas:

- While UN-SWAP 1.0 focused mainly on the corporate processes for gender mainstreaming, UN-SWAP 2.0 also examines gender related SDG results through three new indicators:
 1. Performance indicator 1: Strategic planning gender-related SDG results
 2. Performance Indicator 2: Reporting on gender related SDG results
 3. Performance Indicator 3: Programmatic gender-related SDG results not captured in the strategic plan
- Requirements for 4 indicators in the areas of Evaluation, Audit, Organizational Culture and Coherence were enhanced.
- The indicator that previously measured both gender architecture and equal representation has been divided into two separate indicators to capture more specific findings.
- One additional indicator measuring leadership was introduced.

During the first year of UN-SWAP 2.0 reporting, 66 UN entities reported against the framework. The percentage of entities meeting or exceeding UN-SWAP performance indicators rating has shown a slight decline, from 65 percent to 58 percent which was expected due to the enhanced framework of new indicators. However, at 58 percent, the overall performance of the indicators is significantly higher than the 31 percent reported during the first year of the UN-SWAP in 2012.

A review of the 2018 performance of all 17 indicators by percentage of “meets” or “exceeds” ratings shows that the indicators measuring knowledge generation, auditing, performance management, policy and plan, and leadership are areas of top performance, with 80 percent of entities “meeting” or “exceeding” requirements for these indicators. The performance indicator on leadership, a new indicator included on UN-SWAP 2.0 that measures the public championing of gender equality and empowerment of women, is included among the top performing indicators.

Performance indicators measuring coherence, resource allocation and the equal representation of women are relatively weak areas, with only 31 percent or fewer entities “meeting” requirements for each of these indicators. In 2018, the coherence indicator was strengthened, requiring entities to take part in peer reviews to “meet” requirements. The newly independent indicator measuring the equal representation of women shows only 17 percent of entities “meeting” or “exceeding” requirements. This indicator has been designed to align with the Secretary-General’s Strategy on the Equal Representation of Women and focuses on professional level staff by level. In addition, three key indicators, policy and plan, evaluation and organizational culture have maintained their progress from 2017.

Entities expressed their appreciation for the support received by the UN-SWAP team in the reporting process and raised concerns regarding the performance indicator on equal representation of women, citing the limited scope of the contract types measured, focusing only on professional level and higher staff, thereby leaving general service staff and consultants out of the findings. UN Women agreed to explore whether a mapping to track equal representation statistics among consultants has been completed.

b) Tony Beck, consultant, analysis and findings relating to the UN-SWAP 2.0 Performance Indicators measuring results linked to the SDGs

Mr. Beck provided an overview of UN system achievements in relation to gender equality and women’s empowerment, with a particular focus on UN-SWAP 2.0’s Performance Indicator 1: Strategic planning and gender related SDG results. He also requested inputs regarding the implications of the findings and the recommendations put forth, reminding members that this will drive the agenda around the UN-SWAP for the next five years.

The UN-SWAP 2.0 responds to the request of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) to carry out a ‘system-wide outline of present functions, to identify gaps and overlaps of coverage and provide recommendations for addressing them, identify comparative advantages and improve inter-agency approaches’ in relation to the 2030 Agenda. Each entity was asked to tag their entities’ high level or transformative results¹ to the corresponding SDGs as well as to the thematic areas identified in the UN-SWAP 2.0 Theory of Change.

The SDGs with the highest percentages of entities indicating a focus are SDG 5 (gender equality) with 27 percent, and SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 10 (reducing inequality) and SDG 8 (decent work) each with 7 percent. The tagging exercise demonstrates that there are gaps in the coverage of gender equality and women’s empowerment related goals by the UN system, most noticeably SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 16 (inclusive societies), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land). The findings show that while there is relatively strong coverage of many of the SDGs related to socio-economic areas, many technical goals were lacking in coverage.

To “meet” or “exceed” the requirements of performance indicator 1, entities must include a high level or transformative result related to gender in their strategic plan and be on track to achieve it. Encouragingly, 61 percent of the UN system reports “meeting” or “exceeding” this requirement while 15 percent of entities “approach” the requirements. One possible explanation for the higher than anticipated results may be due to the first year of reporting; refining the technical notes and tightening the quality assurance process may result in a decline in subsequent reported progress.

Performance indicators 2 and 3 display similar reporting results. Performance indicator 2 measures reporting to entities’ governing bodies and the collection of sex disaggregated data. Performance indicator 3 measures all high-level results that are not captured in the strategic plan. Currently, 35percent of the system is reporting “meeting” or “exceeding” requirements for performance indicator 3. When omitting those entities (50 percent) that have rated this indicator as “not applicable” performance indicator 2 reflects similar results to the findings for performance indicator 3.

Session VIII: Accountability for Gender Mainstreaming at the Country Level: UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard

The objective of this session was to acquaint IANWGE members with the new UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard (the Scorecard), aimed at enhancing accountability for gender mainstreaming at the country level. The session was moderated by Ms. Raquel Lagunas, UNDP, and included a presentation and a plenary discussion.

¹ As defined in the UN-SWAP 2.0, transformative results are those results which contribute to changes in social norms, cultural values, power structures and the root causes of gender inequalities and discrimination. To learn more, consult the UN-SWAP 2.0 Framework and Technical Guidance.

a) *Michele Ribotta, Coordination Advisor, UN Women - Implementing the UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard*

In his presentation, Mr. Ribotta provided an update on the Scorecard, and drew comparisons regarding implementation of the Scorecard and the Corporate UN-SWAP (UN-SWAP). Mr. Ribotta noted that the first generation of the Scorecard was implemented by fewer than 60 out of 130 UN Country Teams (UNCTs). Subsequently, the new generation of the Scorecard, that began development in 2016 by the UNDG Theme Group and colleagues in the field, was built, piloted and tested to address the challenge of ownership and to increase the up-take by UNCTs.

Mr. Ribotta highlighted key interlinkages between the repositioning of the UN development system and the UNCT-SWAP Scorecard. Firstly, the QCPR requires all UNCTs to implement the Scorecard and the UN-SWAP. Secondly, the new generation of the UNDAFs is currently being developed for country teams, and an explicit reference to the application of gender equality principles has been included. Finally, he noted that an explicit reference to gender equality principles has also been secured in the UN Resident Coordinators' (RCs) performance appraisals.

The Scorecard was developed to be aligned with the UN-SWAP. Similar to the UN SWAP, the Scorecard is comprised of 7 dimensions and 15 indicators. New features have been integrated in the new generation of the Scorecard, including a new indicator measuring results, as well as one on leadership. Unlike the first generation, the new generation of the Scorecard's ratings are harmonized with those of the UN-SWAP.

The reporting is primarily intended for UNCT-level follow up, and to identify gaps and opportunities for gender mainstreaming in UNCTs. The reports are also used to aggregate results at the global level. The information collected is used to feed into the report of the Secretary General on gender mainstreaming, and to inform the report of the Secretary General on the QCPR.

In its implementation, the Scorecard's reporting can be facilitated internally or externally, but has been designed to be implemented purely through self-assessment. Several forms of support have been made available to UNCTs as they implement the Scorecard:

- The Scorecard's [technical guidance](#) was designed to support self-assessment. It was launched by the UNDG vice chair in June 2018 and was circulated to all RCs and UNCTs in September for implementation.
- Ongoing capacity development of UNCTs that aim to ensure that every UNCT has a number of staff members who understand the framework; 90 UN colleagues have been trained across 44 UNCTs through two, two-day workshops. The first took place in NYC in December 2018, and the second one covered all UNCTs in the Asia Pacific region and took place in March 2019.

- A global help desk is available to respond to questions on all aspects of the process.
- A survey allows UNCT staff to provide anonymous feedback to supervisors on their work on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Mr. Ribotta reported that in the 2018 cycle, 24 UNCTs submitted a report. Of these, 9 UNCTs applied the pilot methodology and 15 used the final methodology. Almost one third of UNCTs undertook the exercise without external support from consultants, relying solely on support from the global help desk. The 2018 reporting cycle shows that UNCTs' best performing areas are partnerships, architecture and capacities, programming and M&E, and planning. Almost one third of UNCTs "meet" or "exceed" at least half of the indicators, with Nepal and Uzbekistan being the best performing UNCTs in 2018.

In their discussion, participants noted that the uptake has significantly increased since the new methodology has been developed and socialized as an internal self-assessment. In relation to capacity building efforts, the Network emphasized the need for UNCTs to learn from their peers, and to potentially create regional teams that undertake the exercise. The Network also suggested that, if funds permit, a training of trainers would maximize capacity building efforts.

While acknowledging that the differing methodologies do not allow for a direct comparison, the linkages between the Scorecard and the UN-SWAP were discussed. The UNCT-SWAP accountability framework is an equivalent of the UN-SWAP, not identical to it. They are each appropriate to their contexts, using similar methodologies for monitoring and reporting. Their results and the challenges (and solutions) encountered will likely be different, contextualized to their very different settings. Mr. Ribotta noted that initial results may illustrate that UNCTs find it challenging to analyze results in common country analyses – if so, promoting joint gender analysis may have an impact on results. Participants suggested that a review be undertaken to draw comparisons between the global and country level frameworks. Looking to the future, evolving trends, and clearer comparisons between the two frameworks and between regions are anticipated.

Session IX: Other Matters

The Secretary thanked participants for the discussion over the two days of the annual meeting and raised administrative and other matters during the final session.

a) Dates for 19th Annual Session of IANWGE

It was decided that IANWGE would continue holding its annual meeting on Thursday and Friday of the first week of CSW. The dates will be communicated by the Secretariat to IANWGE members in due course.

b) Dates and Opportunities for 2019 inter-sessional meetings in different regions

The tentative timing for the 2019 inter-sessional meetings would be early June, end August/ early September, and end October/ early November. Following the successful inter-sessional meeting hosted by UNESCO in Paris in 2018, the Secretary invited the Network to consider hosting one of the IANWGE inter-sessional meetings in a different region, particularly if members were aware of other relevant meetings in which they Network could also participate.

c) International Women's Day 2020 Theme

The Secretary noted that next year, International Women's Day (IWD) falls on Saturday, 8 March 2019 and hence, IWD commemorations would likely take place on Friday 7 March 2019. The Network was requested to suggest potential themes for International Women's Day 2020 bearing in mind the link to CSW-64/Beijing+25.

Annex 1: Annual Session Agenda

18th Annual Session
Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)
14-15 March 2019
UN Women Conference Room 19-20

DAY ONE Thursday 14 March 2019 (9:00 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.)		
9:00 a.m.- 9:30 a.m.	COFFEE & TEA	
Opening Session		
09:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Introduction and Opening Remarks – Åsa Regnér, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women Adoption of Agenda – Aparna Mehrotra, IANWGE Secretary	
Session I: Thematic and Emerging Issues of System-Wide Relevance		
10:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.	<p><i>Objective:</i> Updates on issues of emerging and topical relevance and identifying opportunities for inter-agency collaboration</p> <p><i>Methodology:</i> Presentations and plenary discussion</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace and Security – Paivi Kannisto, Chief, Peace and Security Section, UN Women • Spotlight Initiative – Erin Kenny, Senior Technical Advisor, ERAW • Joint UN Statement to End Discrimination in Health Care Settings – Luisa Cabal, UNAIDS 	Moderator Ngone Diop, UNECA
11:00 a.m.- 11:15 a.m.	COFFEE & TEA	
Session I: Thematic and Emerging Issues of System-Wide Relevance continued		

11:15 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	<p><i>Objective:</i> Updates on issues of emerging and topical relevance and identifying opportunities for inter-agency collaboration</p> <p><i>Methodology:</i> Presentations and plenary discussion</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHCHR work on Women’s Human Rights Defenders and Civic Space - Veronica Birga, Chief of the Women’s Rights and Gender Section, OHCHR • Progress on the World’s Women Report – Laura Turquet, UN Women 	Moderator Ngone Diop, UNECA
Session II: Representation of women in the UN System		
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	<p><i>Objective:</i> Update on the implementation of the Strategy on Gender Parity and Enabling Environment Guidelines</p> <p><i>Methodology:</i> Presentation and plenary discussion</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katja Pehrman, Senior Advisor and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, UN Women 	Moderator Kawinzi Muiu, WFP
12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	LUNCH (Catered)	
Session III: IANWGE Time-bound Task Forces and Standing Working Groups		
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<p><i>Objective:</i> Reconstitute IANWGE’s historic timebound task forces and working groups in an effort to strengthen the Network’s contributions to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women.</p> <p><i>Methodology:</i> Break-out group discussions and identification of key thematic areas and upcoming UN intergovernmental meetings/ reviews/ summits that IANWGE can provide inputs from a gender perspective and establish related time-bound Task Forces, suggested work plans, and membership.</p>	Moderator UN Women
3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	COFFEE & TEA	
Session IV: Beijing+25: Network Engagement		
3:45 p.m.- 5:15 p.m.	<p><i>Objective:</i></p> <p>(i) Briefings on the 2020 Gender Equality moment (including the preparation towards on the 25th anniversary of the Beijing</p>	Moderator Valentina Resta, DESA

	<p>Platform for Action, 2019-2020). This moment provides a strategic entry points to identify and leverage interagency collaboration and cooperation opportunities to strengthen commitments and catalyse action on gender equality.</p> <p>(ii) Regional preparations for Beijing+25 and opportunities for collaboration.</p> <p>(iii) Proposals emanating from previous IANWGE Inter-Sessional Meetings (held on 30 October 2018 and 25 February 2019) for Network engagement.</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> Presentation and plenary discussion</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lopa Banerjee, Director, Civil Society Division UN Women • Nicole Bidegain Ponte, Social Affairs Officers, ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs • Sharon J. Taylor, UN Coordination Advisor, UN Women 	
6:00 pm	DINNER Fabio Cucina Italiana, 214 East 52 nd Street, New York.	
DAY TWO Friday 15 March 2019 (09:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)		
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	COFFEE & TEA	
Session V: Interactive dialogue with the Executive Director of UN Women and Chair of IANWGE: Enhanced advocacy and accelerated action on gender equality and the empowerment of women leading up to 2020		
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<p>Remarks and interactive dialogue - Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women and Chair of IANWGE</p> <p><u>Objective:</u> 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference on Women, the 40th anniversary of CEDAW, the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security and the Fifth anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals. This provides a strategic moment to identify and leverage opportunities for interagency collaboration and cooperation to strengthen commitments and catalyse action on gender equality. Network members will present agreed upon strategies and plans for IANWGE engagement in the Beijing+25 process emerging from deliberations on Day One.</p>	Moderator Aparna Mehrotra, UN- Women

	<i>Methodology:</i> Interactive Dialogue with the ED of UN Women.	
Session VI: Making Innovation and Technology Work for Women		
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<p><i>Objective:</i> Understanding how partnerships and inter-agency collaboration can promote a gender-responsive approach to innovation, and accelerate industry-wide change to advance women and girls’ involvement in innovation, technology and entrepreneurship</p> <p><i>Methodology:</i> Presentations and plenary discussion</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ursula Wynhoven, ITU Representative to the United Nations, New York • Gülser Corat, Director, Gender Equality Division, UNESCO • Helene Molinier, Senior Policy Advisor and Director for the Innovation and Technology Facility, UN Women • Hedda Femundsenden, Gender Coordinator, UNIDO 	<p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p>Ursula Wynhoven, ITU</p>
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	COFFEE & TEA	
Session VII: Moving Towards Results: Accountability for Gender Mainstreaming at the Corporate Level: UN-SWAP 2.0		
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	<p><i>Objective:</i> Understanding the most significant changes from SWAP 1.0-2.0. Reviewing analysis and findings of the first round of reporting of UN-SWAP 2.0, focusing on enhanced reporting on results linked to the SDGs.</p> <p><i>Methodology:</i> Presentations; breakout groups and plenary discussion</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica Dyer, Inter-Agency Coordination Specialist, UN Women • Tony Beck, Consultant, UN Women 	<p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p>Hedda Femundsenden, UNIDO</p>
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	LUNCH (Catered)	
Session VIII: Accountability for Gender Mainstreaming at the Country Level: UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard		

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<p><i>Objective:</i> Enhancing accountability for gender mainstreaming at the country level: Understanding the new UNCT SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard</p> <p><i>Methodology:</i> Presentation and plenary discussion</p> <p><i>Presenter:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michele Ribotta, Coordination Advisor, UN Women 	<p>Moderator Raquel Lagunas, UNDP</p>
3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	COFFEE & TEA	
Session IX: Other Matters		
3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates for 2019 inter-sessional meetings • Opportunities for inter-sessional meeting in different region • Dates for 19th Annual Session of IANWGE • International Women’s Day 2020 Theme • AOB 	
Closing Session		
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Feedback from members on the annual meeting and the way forward	

Annex 2: List of Participants

IANWGE 18th Annual Session, 14-15 March 2019				
Entity	Last Name	First Name	Title	Email
DESA/DISD/Indigenous Peoples	Masaquiza	Mirian	Social Affairs Officer	masaquiza@un.org
DESA/DPIDG	Resta	Valentina	Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer	restav@un.org
DESA/DPIDG	Chan	Lily	Intern	-
DESA/DSDG	Robinson	Kenza	Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Gender Focal Point	robinson1@un.org
DESA/PSPD	Ito	Akiko	Chief, Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	ito@un.org
ECA	Diop	Ngone	Chief Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	diopn@un.org
ECE	Koparanova	Malinka	Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point	malinka.koparanova@un.org
ECLAC	Bidegain	Nicole	Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC Division for Gender Affairs	nicole.bidegain@un.org
ESCAP	Cai	Cai	Chief, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section	caic@un.org
ESCWA	Darwazeh	Nada	Chief Gender Equality Section	nada.darwazeh@un.org
FAO	Kaaria	Susan	Senior Gender Officer	susan.kaaria@fao.org
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