



# Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality

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## Report of the Eleventh Session of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality

New York, 22 – 24 February 2012

The eleventh annual session was chaired by UN Women Executive Director, Ms. Michelle Bachelet. Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women participated in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Network.

IANWGE committed to jointly work towards applying a gender perspective to the deliberations and outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) and the Post MDG 2015 Framework. Efforts to promote system-wide accountability for the work on gender equality and the empowerment of women were highlighted as critical to enhance the UN system's effectiveness. The consultation process towards the development of a system-wide action plan on gender equality was praised as sound and useful.

The substantive segments focused on women's political participation, leadership and economic empowerment, as well as the outcome of the Forth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. On the last issue, the Network recognized the need for the implementation of an aid management accountability framework that assesses aid's contributions to advancing the gender equality agenda, in particular at the country level.

The session comprised briefings on various issues, including on CSW56; CEDAW; women and peace and security; violence against women; status of women in the United Nations; options on UN Staff capacity development; and system-wide gender mainstreaming, with a dedicated discussion on the challenges to the incorporation of gender perspectives in the United Nations Risk Reduction Strategy.

The work of the IANWGE task forces was reviewed. The task force on Rural Women was repeatedly praised for its work, including the excellent fact-sheet on rural women which was prepared for the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Based on this, IANWGE presented a joint message to CSW.

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### A. Summary of decisions-taken and follow up identified actions

Deliverable	Entity involved	Timeline
<b>Accountability for the UN System's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women</b>		
Members brief their entities' representatives to the HLCP, HLCM and CEB, and prepare them for the presentation of the SWAP.	All members	Feb-April 2012
Members to volunteer, within their mandate and expertise, to be "leads" on specific areas within the UN-SWAP.	All members ILO already offered to lead on Oversight	Feb-April 2012
UN Women to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>between now and the consideration of the SWAP at the CEB, provide upon request technical support and advice to the entities and their internal consultations as well as to share the good practices and lessons learned from the piloting phase.</li> </ul>	UN Women	Feb-April 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide advice during the implementation phase to tailor SWAP to the needs of technical agencies.</li> </ul>	UN Women	Feb-April 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>share SWAP best practices from pilot countries.</li> </ul>	UN Women	Feb-April 2012
<b>Substantive Issue: Outcome of the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, and its implications for gender equality work</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in the follow up process not only in the global discussions but especially in the country monitoring frameworks for the Busan Outcome.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify entry points with donors, national partners and within the UNCTs for follow up and new opportunities for partnership.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foster coordination and coherence between gender related priorities and the discussions with the UNDG groups related to the post- Busan follow-up, the post 2015 development framework and the preparations for the QCPR process.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<b>Enhancing women's political participation and role in decision-making at all levels</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share the results of the work of the UN System in relation to the Arab Spring, work being done in rural areas and with indigenous women, the use of CEDAW to inform work, and the work being carried out to ensure the representation of displaced people (internally or internationally).</li> </ul>	UN Women, DPA and UNDP	2012
<b>Matters related to the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a set of key messages reflecting a common position on the priority theme, based on the MDG Factsheet produced by the task force on Rural Women.</li> </ul>	IANWGE: FAO in the lead	24 February 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN Women ASG and Deputy Executive Director Ms. Puri and WFP Deputy Executive Director Ms. Sisulu to convey these key messages during the closing remarks that they would provide at the high-level round table on 27 February.</li> </ul>	UN Women and WFP	27 February 2012
<b>Matters related to CEDAW</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate and collaborate on the regional consultations on the general recommendation on the human rights of women in conflict and post conflict</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012

situations to be held in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up on the upcoming meeting of States parties to the CEDAW Convention and elections of Members to the Committee in June 2012.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider ways of strengthening participation in, and contribution to, CEDAW's reporting process and the development of other general recommendations.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<b>Updates on, and review of the work of IANWGE and its different task forces</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WomenWatch to be redesigned and integrated into UN Women's new server.</li> </ul>	UN Women	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide inputs on the contents, in the design and in the fundraising efforts for improving the WomenWatch website.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circulate the draft terms of reference of the task force on Gender and Migration, for endorsement. UN entities to express willingness for membership.</li> </ul>	UN Women and IOM	February – March 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Express willingness to undertake a co-chair role of the task force on Climate Change.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	February – March 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finish the work within a year, coming up with a specific output to be reported on in 2013.</li> </ul>	Task force on Gender and Justice	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circulate a 2012 work plan of the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Policy dialogue on women's economic empowerment.</li> </ul>	IAWG on WEE	March 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise terms of reference for a possible merging to focus on the Rio + 20 and the discussions regarding the post 2015 development framework.</li> </ul>	Former TF of Rural women, along with TF on climate change and MDGs	March 2012
<b>Capacity development of effective gender mainstreaming</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN Women, including through the support of its Training Center, will take the first steps in developing a draft course curriculum, outline and content drawing on existing similar basic courses available at UN entities such as UNDP and UNESCO.</li> </ul>	UN Women, UNICEF	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN Women invites members of the network to join a task team to that effect.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The curriculum and outline would be shared with IANWGE members for comments. In light of the comments the content will be developed and presented again in draft form to the IANWGE members for comments and feedback.</li> </ul>	UN Women, UNICEF	Forthcoming inter-sessional meeting to be defined 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Once these are received, the final version will be produced and available to all IAWNGE members.</li> </ul>	UN Women, UNSSC	Annual session 2013
<b>New and emerging issues: Mainstreaming of gender into the disaster risk reduction strategy (DRR)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with UN Women regarding DRR and gender-sensitivity.</li> </ul>	ECLAC	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance sex disaggregated data on the effect of disasters on women relative to men, old relative to young, etc., as critical to gain in efficiency in terms of targeting resources.</li> </ul>	WHO proposal. IANWGE to respond	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistance to be provided to in the development of a training with UNISDR. ITC invited UNISDR to a training session with Geneva colleagues on DRR and gender-sensitivity.</li> </ul>	UNESCO, UNISDR, ITC	

<b>New and emerging issues: The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree upon one common set of recommendations that can be presented to governments.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	March 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise and provide feedback on the Zero-draft and to send their suggestions, if any, to UN Women.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	29 February
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up on the discussions in the context of the Summit of women Heads of State and Governments to be held on 20 June 2012.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	June 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for the inclusion of a gender dimension in the process and outcome of the post 2015 framework.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share a briefing on the process for Rio+20, especially amongst agencies not based in New York.</li> </ul>	UN Women	2012
<b>Improving the status of women in the United Nations</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate the timely issue of letters to entities for their inputs into the Report of the Secretary-General on the Status of Women in the United Nations system.</li> <li>Use the materials in the PowerPoint and on the website for advocacy in their organizations.</li> </ul>	UN Women IANWGE	Moez Doraid's email of March 2012 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post the template for a policy on Gender Based Violence and the Workplace.</li> </ul>	UN Women	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share others' policies especially on justice and gender parity. UN Women plans to do this through the SWAP knowledge bank.</li> </ul>	UN Women	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Materialize the invitation to the Focal Point for Women to visit several entities to advise on the development of a gender parity policy also in the context of the SWAP.</li> </ul>	PAHO, WFP, UNCCC, Rome based entities etc.	
<b>Addressing violence against women in a coherent manner</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask a detailed breakdown from the Trust Fund Secretariat as regards grantees, lessons learned, analysis of results.</li> <li>Provide more guidance on the type of analysis, and information on what they need from the Trust Fund.</li> <li>Provide inputs into the content and features of its new online grant management system and feedback on the recent data analysis completed for the grant applications submitted for 2012.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share suggestions and contribute to the process of capturing and articulating efforts of joint programmes.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
Submit contributions of Members State measures (legislative, policy, institutional, etc.) for the Secretary-General's Database on VAW and encouraged colleagues to send any queries on the database to: <a href="mailto:vaw.database@unwomen.org">vaw.database@unwomen.org</a>	IANWGE	2012
Contribute to the Virtual Knowledge Centre by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sharing any relevant guidance or tools (manuals, training materials, etc.)</li> <li>contributing to reviews of the module or specific inputs within them</li> <li>dissemination of the site among agency colleagues and partners: <a href="mailto:evaw.helpdesk@unwomen.org">evaw.helpdesk@unwomen.org</a></li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advance the work on violence against women &amp; gender-based violence in a coordinated manner for the 57th session of CSW which will focus on issue.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN Women invited the IANWGE to self-identify if</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012

they would be interested in joining dedicated working groups for consultations on forthcoming EAW priorities, as task emerge, firstly for the CSW 2013 process which will focus on the issue, including advocacy related to expanding universal access to services		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IANWGE agreed to continue advancing work on ending violence against women focusing on working on a coordinated manner towards the 57<sup>th</sup> session of CSW, as well as in other areas such as the General Assembly Resolution on the intensification of efforts for the elimination of violence against women, the Secretary-General's Action Plan and the post 2015 development framework.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<b>Women and Peace and Security</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to coordinate and bring coherence between the work at the entity-level with that of IANWGE and at the system-wide level.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disseminate information and link together existing platforms of action were largely agreed upon.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<b>UN system-wide strategy on women's economic empowerment</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulate the synthesis report of the monkey survey results on UN entities' guiding normative and operational frameworks on women's economic empowerment, comparative advantages, gaps, challenges and lessons learned.</li> </ul>	UN Women	March 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise the draft of the 2012 work plan of the IANWGE Task Force/Working Group on WEE, with clear timeline and deliverables, and send it to the Network for inputs, comments and suggestions.</li> </ul>	UN Women	March 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead the preparation of a joint Issue Brief on gender equality and sustainable development to serve as IANWGE's input to the Rio+20 Conference (to be included on the UNCSD website). A draft outline will be circulated for IANWGE members' comments, inputs and suggestions.</li> </ul>	UN Women & others. Decision on who to deliver it in Brazil Is to be taken.	March – June 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share suggested language on gender equality and women's empowerment in the zero draft outcome for Rio+20.</li> </ul>	UN Women	February 2012
<b>UN Women's coordination strategy</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree upon overall objective of the IANWGE and identify the key messages jointly to advocate for. For the period 2012, the Network decided to focus on influencing the Rio+20 Conference, the post-2015 development framework and the CEB Spring session.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect inputs from IANWGE members to form a reference document/policy brief on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which can then be used by the latter to influence the outcome document.</li> </ul>	UN Women with the support of IANWGE	March – June 2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send comments on the zero-draft to UN Women, and to communicate to their respective agencies the centrality of gender-equality for the post-MDGs.</li> </ul>	IANWGE	February – March 2012
<b>Other matters</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in compiling the evaluations already collected</li> </ul>	IANWGE to	2012

for the “Repository of gender evaluations”, promote the evaluation database and provide feedback on the developed joint evaluation products	support UNEG	
• Circulate and agree on a proposal for International Women’s Day of IANWGE	IANWGE Secretariat	2012
• Secretariat to circulate the draft new TOR of IANWGE for comments, suggestions and endorsement	IANWGE Secretariat	2012
• The dates for next IANWGE Session:	IANWGE Secretariat	27-28 February, and 1st March 2013

**B. Sessions**

**1. Opening session**

The Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Ms. Michelle Bachelet, welcomed participants and recognized the important role IANWGE plays in creating synergies system-wide, engaging in joint action and collaborating at global, regional and country levels. She noted that UN Women is committed to strengthening its capacity, particularly at the field level, to better coordinate and facilitate coherence in the delivering of gender equality results. UN Coordination, women’s economic empowerment and political participation would be her priorities for 2012. UN Women was keen to further engage in interagency collaboration around these important areas.

Ms. Bachelet indicated that the current discussions on the Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agenda provided opportunities for IANWGE to present a joint position and vigorously promote attention to gender equality. She also noted that preparations for the QCPR have started and encouraged the Network to strongly foster the incorporation of gender perspectives into the upcoming discussions and outcome. Ms. Bachelet highlighted the development of the System-wide Action Plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women (SWAP), noting that this accountability tool would be presented first to the HLCP in March and later in April to the CEB for endorsement. The consultative process on the SWAP was a good example of a unified system working together. Ms. Bachelet also highlighted the on-going work on the Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women and stressed the need for funding by all UN entities pledging UN Women’s continued support to IANWGE.

Following Ms. Bachelet’s statement, participants expressed their anticipation for UN Women’s efforts to better coordinate the work on gender equality and the empowerment of women in the UN system. One such example is the work undertaken by the task force on rural women in preparation for the priority theme of the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status on Women. The need to make gender equality central to the definition of a post-2015 development framework was also emphasized. In this regard, a common position from the Network on this issue was encouraged.

Participants agreed to work towards in strengthening the Network. The Network would explore the best possible means to improve joint efforts and achieve results. This would require critically assessing what works, and building strong cases for gender equality, linked to economic and social outcomes. There is therefore a need for stronger evidence-based advocacy. Weaknesses in existing indicators were noted. The need for more action-oriented research was also stressed. The ability to draw on existing research carried out by the regional commissions was suggested.

## 2. Accountability for the UN System's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women

Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, UN Women Senior advisor on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, briefed the Network on the on-going work towards the establishment a system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women (SWAP). The development of the SWAP involved an extensive consultative process with over 50 UN entities, Secretariat Departments and Offices, and inter-agency coordination bodies. There were 15 performance standards, each with three gradations, plus accompanying technical notes. A key element in the consultative process had been the piloting of the SWAP by eight entities – UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, IAEA, IOM, ESCWA, OHCHR and UNAIDS, which constitute a representative sample of the UN System encompassing funds and programs, specialized entities and departments and offices of the Secretariat. The purpose of the piloting exercise was to:

- ensure that the SWAP was of relevance to all entities in the UN system;
- record the amount of time and level of resources required for completing the SWAP reporting framework and the extent to which reporting can draw on existing data systems, and new data needs to be generated, so as to give guidance to the UN system on this;
- determine any constraints or challenges faced, and areas for potential improvement and joint work; and
- strengthen the credibility, methodological soundness, and usefulness of the final SWAP.

The SWAP would be tabled at three upcoming fora: HLCP (March), HLCM (March) and CEB (April). Assuming endorsement by the CEB, the SWAP Roll-out will take place April 2012 – Dec 2012. Assistance would be provided during this phase by UN Women and by the entities and departments among themselves. A web-based SWAP reporting platform was demonstrated.

Two presentations were part of this session - "UNDG Action Learning Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment", presented by Ms. Noreen Khan, Gender Specialist of the Gender and Rights Unit of UNICEF and "UNFPA-led country pilots on the Elimination of Violence against Women: Lessons learned from joint programming from the UN Inter-agency Task Force on Violence against Women", presented by Ms. Upala Devi, GBV Technical Adviser of UNFPA. The presentations teased out well the uniqueness of "delivering as one" and highlighted, through country-initiated "one UN" pilots, the UN system's accountability to work on advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Both presentations provided evidence on: comparative advantages of joint programmes to make real the promise of a multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder approach to gender equality and violence against women (VAW), including exploring avenues and synergies to promote sustainable change; providing a vehicle for capacity development of local partners and stakeholders and that can lead to longer-term sustainability of efforts; and the value-added of such programmes for demonstrating promising/innovative approaches - including avenues for replication on scale - in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

Network received well the three presentations of the segment. The ensuing discussion focused on the way forward and recognized the consultative process as a good model for consultation. It was well-organized and respectful of different points of view, and that the data requested in the SWAP is key for entities to see where improvement is needed and promote accountability at all levels of UN staff, but in particular at the senior most level. Regarding the piloting phase, participants highlighted the SWAP reporting framework and performance standards had positively stood up to internal scrutiny and testing, and the tool had been found to be sound, relevant, useful and viable. It already has been used as an effective advocacy tool. For example WIPO had incorporated the performance standards on its gender assessments, and DESA DPM had promoted a 15 per cent gender target of spending budgets. Some technical entities needed more financial and technical resources to implement SWAP and Nairobi based entities requested to be more involved.



Action points for follow-up:

- UN entities were asked to brief their general directors, deputy directors and representatives at the HLCP, HLCM and CEB about the SWAP.
- UN Women committed to:
  - between now and the consideration of the SWAP at the CEB, provide upon request technical support and advice to the entities and their internal consultations as well as to share the good practices and lessons learned from the piloting phase.
  - brief new senior UN officials in Rome-based entities
  - provide advice to tailor SWAP to the needs of technical agencies
  - share SWAP best practices from pilot countries

### **3. Outcome of the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, and its implications for gender equality work**

Ms. Nisreen Alami, UN Women Policy Advisor on Gender in National Systems, provided an overview of the Fourth High-level forum on Aid Effectiveness which was held in Busan, Korea, on 29 November – 1 December 2011. As aid provides a significant source of financing for gender equality work, it is critical that accountability frameworks associated with aid management address how aid is contributing to advancing gender equality. UN Women had engaged with the process leading up to the Fourth High Level Forum. It provided support to the global women's Forum, organized by a network of women's organizations to highlight their key demands, including: a development cooperation framework based on human rights, including women's rights; a new equitable development cooperation system for gender equality and women's rights under the monitoring of the United Nations; systematic participation by civil society, especially women's and feminist organizations; the promotion of multiple accountability systems for women's rights and gender equality; and ensuring adequate financing for gender equality and women's rights and special attention to women and girls in countries in situations of fragility and conflict.

UN Women and GENDERNET hosted a side event "Progress on gender equality and women's empowerment since the Paris Declaration" that highlighted experiences and good practices from Ecuador and Nepal (on GRB and tracking of financing for gender equality), Philippines (on gender statistics) and private sector, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The event identified a set of recommendations related to funding for, and ownership of, gender equality, as well as the need for strengthening accountability and monitoring gender equality development results. Also, the special session "Gender equality and women's empowerment for development results" co-hosted by the US and Korea, in collaboration with UN Women, the World Bank and the GENDERNET, included interventions from the US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton, who focused on the need for investment in women's economic empowerment and addressing their restricted access to land rights, credit and decent work; and the Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, who stressed the need for effective approaches to achieve women's empowerment and gender equality, more inclusive development processes, and more transparency and accountability for development effectiveness by using agreed indicators for gender equality.

The Busan outcome document called upon development partners to accelerate efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women (paragraph 20). It recognized that reducing gender inequality is both an end in its own right and a prerequisite for sustainable and inclusive growth. As part of efforts to support implementation, the governments of the US and Korea proposed the Joint Busan Action Plan on Gender Equality which expands upon commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment, by identifying the following key actions: i) increase efforts to collect, disseminate, harmonise and make

full use of sex-disaggregated data to guide economic and social development, ii) integrate targets for gender equality and women's empowerment in accountability mechanisms, and ensure the participation of women and women's organisations in these mechanisms; iii) support efforts for better tracking aid and public expenditures for gender equality and women's empowerment; iv) broaden support to gender equality in infrastructure, agriculture, democracy and governance; v) ensure that any global monitoring framework on aid / development effectiveness after Busan fully integrates gender equality dimensions in the key monitoring indicators and review process and support the implementation of the Busan outcome document.

Action points for follow-up:

- The Network agreed to engage in the follow up process not only in the global discussions but especially in the country monitoring frameworks for the Busan Outcome.
- The Network would identify entry points with donors, national partners and within the UNCTs for follow up and new opportunities for partnership.
- The Network would ensure coordination and coherence between gender related priorities and the discussions with the UNDG groups related to the post- Busan follow-up, the post MDGs 2015 processes and the preparations for the QCPR process.

#### **4. Enhancing women's political participation and role in decision-making at all levels**

The theme was introduced by Ms. Suki Beavers from UNDP, Ms. Mansour Sadeghi from DPA and Ms. Begoña Lasagabaster, from UN Women.

UNDP highlighted its work at both HQ and country offices, on women's political participation, focusing on capacity building of candidates and Members of Parliaments, women's caucuses, temporary special measures or work with electoral management bodies, voter registration and civic education. Two new areas had come to the forefront recently: i) political parties in which women made up 40 to 50 per cent membership but they only hold 10 per cent of leadership positions; ii) a new knowledge product to be launched on 29 February, which focuses on different approaches to working with political parties in different stages of the electoral cycle. UNDP also highlighted its support to countries of the Arab Spring and constitutional reform. UNDP was also doing a global mapping of 70 countries in order to find out what was situation of women in public administration, and on higher level positions.

DPA/EAD representative stressed that supporting the participation of marginalized groups, including women, in electoral processes has become an integral part of the United Nations electoral assistance activities/projects. This increasingly includes advice on the application of relevant provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. UN Electoral Assistance Division (UNEAD) has been always mindful of the need to encourage gender equality and the inclusion of women in electoral processes and political life more generally. Advocating women's participation in electoral processes, including in post conflict elections, as voters, candidates, electoral officials and representatives of civil society organizations; taking gender perspective into full consideration in all phases of needs assessment missions (NAMs), and employing a gender-sensitive approach in applying the criteria for inclusion of candidates in the roster of electoral experts are only a few examples in this respect. EAD is also working in the following areas: a) A commitment to developing joint guidance with UN Women on gender and electoral assistance to ensure coherence and complementarity; b) A commitment (based on Policy Committee decision) that all electoral needs assessment missions will ensure that specific recommendations are made to ensure gender mainstreaming in all UN electoral assistance activities and that priority is given to the promotion of the participation and representation of women, and that each needs assessment will have sufficient expertise in matters of gender and elections. EAD and other relevant UN partners are also revising the joint DPKO-DFS/DPA guidelines on enhancing the role of women in post-conflict electoral processes.

UN Women stressed that political participation had been set as one of the main priority for 2012 and is one of the main goals in the Strategic Plan. In 2011 the General Assembly approved a resolution on women's political participation. Also, the Leaders' Joint Statement on political participation was the beginning of a network of high-level female political leaders, which would focus on promoting women's voice and leadership. On coordination, with UNDP and DPA, UN Women have been generating global synergies within their work on political participation, through ensuring adequate consideration of gender perspectives, and sharing information and data on women's political participation at all levels and in particular at the local level, where information lacks the most. On the operational side, UN Women was supporting national governments in undertaking electoral reforms, enhancing women's meaningful participation in political parties, and supporting candidate capacity development programmes and gender responsive budgets to civil society organizations.

Participants highlighted that political participation is not limited to work with formal institutions but whether these institutions are themselves gender sensitive. In this sense, UN Women stressed that in Egypt together with UNDP, the entity had done work to facilitate the issuing of national ID cards for women. The formal ID cards not only enable women to vote, but also ensure that they are able to access social services. Participants also called for ensuring adequate attention to women of special groups, for example rural women, indigenous women and women in displacement situation, and expressed some caution on not limiting the work to quotas or special measures as they do not work evenly in all cases. Therefore, special context analysis should be undertaken before any decision on the type of special measure to be promoted. CEDAW recommendation 25 should be the common guide to the work on women's political participation. Recommendations of the CEDAW report should figure in all country documents guidelines.

Action Point for Follow-up:

- Participants called to share the results of the work of the UN System in relation to the Arab Spring, work being done in rural areas and with indigenous women, the use of CEDAW to inform work, and work being carried out to ensure the representation of displaced people (internally or internationally).

## **5. The 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

Ms. Christine Brautigam, UN Women Executive Secretary of the Commission on the Status of Women, briefed participants on the upcoming session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which would take place from 27 February to 9 March 2012 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. In addition to the general discussion, high-level roundtables and panels, about 90 side events by Member States and UN entities and more than 300 parallel events organized by NGOs will take place. More than 4,400 civil society participants are pre-registered, which is 1,000 more than in 2011. This year's priority theme was the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges. The Commission would also assess progress in the implementation of the 2008 agreed conclusions on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Next year, the Commission would examine the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls as its priority theme. As one of the goals in UN Women's Strategic Plan, this will be an important session to enhance the system's efforts.

The ensuing question and answer session centered on the desirability for IANWGE to issue a joint statement or key messages on the priority theme of the Commission, and on the best channel for conveying these key messages to CSW.

Action points for follow-up:

- IANWGE would prepare a set of key messages reflecting a common position on the priority theme, based on the MDG Factsheet produced by the taskforce on Rural Women.

- UN Women ASG and Deputy Executive Director Ms. Puri and WFP Deputy Executive Director Ms. Sisulu would be asked to convey these key messages during the closing remarks that they would provide at the high-level round table on 27 February.

## 6. CEDAW

Ms. Gaynel Curry, OHCHR Gender and Women's Rights Advisor, briefed the Network on the latest ratifications of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, as well as acceptances of the amendment to article 20 of the Convention. The Network was also briefed about the 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its adoption of concluding observations with regard to 16 State parties, with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups of women, including refugees, stateless women and migrants, older women, rural women, indigenous women and women with disabilities. The Committee was elaborating several general recommendations, including on the economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution; on the human rights of women in conflict and post conflict situations; on access to justice; on gender equality in the context of asylum, statelessness and natural disasters; and on rural women. It was also working with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on a joint general recommendation on harmful practices. In the context of the drafting of the general recommendation on the human rights of women in conflict and post conflict situations, it held consultations with key partners in New York in July 2011, which was actively supported by UN Women. It was also planning to hold consultations on this topic at the regional level, in Asia/Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. The CEDAW Committee was planning a general discussion on access to justice during its 52<sup>nd</sup> session. The Committee also adopted two statements: on gender equality for refugees and stateless persons on the occasion of the anniversaries of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; and on rural women on the occasion of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Status of Women.

Participants welcomed the briefing by OHCHR and expressed their willingness to increase partnerships between UN entities and the Committee as well as between IANWGE and the Committee, and, in particular, made several proposals how to contribute to the Committee's reporting procedure and the elaboration of general recommendations.

Action points for follow-up:

- IANWGE members were interested in participating and collaborating on the regional consultations on the general recommendation on the human rights of women in conflict and post conflict situations to be held in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.
- Attention was drawn to the upcoming meeting of States parties to the CEDAW Convention and elections of Members to the Committee in June 2012.
- OHCHR invited IANWGE members to consider ways of strengthening participation in, and contribution to, CEDAW's reporting process and the development of other general recommendations.

## 7. Updates on, and review of the work of IANWGE and its different task forces

The session included oral reports of each of the following Task Forces:

- Rural Women, represented by Marcela Villarreal (FAO)
- Gender and Trade, represented by Simonetta Zarrilli (UNCTAD)
- Gender and Climate Change, represented by Timothy Scott (UNDP)
- Gender Equality and the MDGs, represented by Ngone Diop (UNDP)
- Women Watch, represented by Nanette Broun, Johannes Lang and Jaya Jiwatram (UN Women)
- Policy dialogue on women's economic empowerment, Yassine Fall (UN Women)

- Gender and Migration, represented by Jean D'Cunha (UN Women)
- Women's Access to Justice, represented by Jean Hodges (ILO)

The task force on rural women highlighted as main results the fact sheet on Rural Women and the Millennium Development Goals, which consolidated knowledge from relevant sources specifically on how rural women were faring against each of the MDG targets, and identified key areas and indicators that were missing to understand the lives of rural women compared to their urban counterparts and rural and urban men. The task force also identified areas of slow progress and gaps that were not part of any MDG. The findings and recommendations were important for the Rio + 20 Conference and the post MDG 2015 development framework. Also, the task force outlined the role and comparative advantage of each agency in contributing to the empowerment of rural women and a number of good practices and policies that had contributed to progress in this area. The fact sheet was being hosted by Women Watch website in time for CSW. The Task Force provided a forum for enriching Task Force members' understanding about the work of each agency and highlighted the strengths upon which the UN system can contribute to rural women's empowerment.

As part of the task force of Women Gender and Trade, UNCTAD highlighted a Special Event on "Making Trade Work for Women in the LDCs", held by UNCTAD and UN Women, on the occasion of the Fourth UN Conference on Least Developed Countries (UNLDC-IV, Istanbul, May 2011). The event provided an opportunity to show case the positive role that trade may play towards the economic empowerment of women in the LDCs. UNCTAD also established cooperation links with UN Women in Cape Verde, with UNDP in Bhutan and with UNDP and ILO in Lesotho, among others, aimed at enhancing the capacity of policy-makers and trade negotiators to include gender considerations when formulating trade policy and negotiating trade agreements.

The task force on Climate Change highlighted its contributions to the preparations for UNFCCC COP-17 in Durban, the Secretary-General's panel on global sustainability, and other global finance meetings. The task force organized a high-level UN side event in Durban on gender and climate finance. As a result, 18 gender references were integrated into the final COP-17 negotiated text. The task force would continue to coordinate input and activities in the coming year, for example for COP-18 in Qatar and the establishment of the Green Climate Fund. The Task Force continued to strengthen synergies with other coordination mechanisms, including with the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA). The GGCA included over 50 members including 8 UN agencies. Further coordination could be beneficial with the other task forces, for example, on rural women and the MDGs.

The tasks force on the MDGs' highlighted activities during 2011 included knowledge and information sharing, creation of synergy with other task forces and engagement in global policy dialogues. 2011 was characterized by the organization and preparation of high level global policy dialogues, including the Busan Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness where the task force participated in the preparation for the Forum led by UNDG, and the Joint Statement of the United Nations Development Group: "Development Cooperation for the Millennium Goals: Maximizing Results and Mutual Accountability". In preparation for Rio+20 and the Post2015 development framework processes, the task force participated in various activities including in UNDP e-discussion on "Gender Equality, Growth and Sustainable Development", which addressed key issues and concepts that define the interactions between the three dimensions and the policy implications for Rio+20.

The task force of Women Watch's key highlights in 2011/early 2012 included its support to an inter-agency feature on rural women, a prototype of an online data collection application (SWAP) and two new repositories pulling in related policy documents, action plans, resources and tools on gender mainstreaming within the UN system. In 2011, the website also disseminated more than 1200 UN news items on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Information related to the task force on policy dialogue on women's economic empowerment, is contained in section of this report referred as "UN system-wide strategy on women's economic empowerment (page 20). All the task forces including those newly established i.e. Women and Migration and Women's access to justice, presented the roadmap for 2012 and recommendations. Detailed information can be found on: <https://intra.unwomen.org/IANWGE/SitePages/Main.aspx>

In the discussion following presentations the following issues were raised:

The task force on Rural Women was repeatedly praised by various members of the Network for its excellent fact-sheet document on rural women in anticipation to the 56<sup>th</sup> session of CSW. Its output and working methods were touted as the gold standard for all Task Forces to emulate. This task force, along with that on Policy Dialogue on Economic Empowerment were called upon to draft a statement to the CSW on behalf of the IANWGE.

The task force WomenWatch was highlighted as an instrument available to all members of the Network and that UN Women, as its host, is keen to receive their inputs, suggestions and guidance. It should be used not only as a repository of information but also as a window to present each entity's relevant work and joint activities.

It was appreciated that several task forces attempted to create synergies with others (e.g. task force on Gender Equality and the MDGs with the task force on Gender and Climate Change), but it was also recalled that at the prior year's annual session there had been an agreement that all task forces would be time bound (with a 12 month mandate) and with specific deliverables. In general, key attributes of successful task forces tend to be: i) having specific deliverables; ii) being time-bound; and iii) with accountability. UN Women was asked to support the various task forces with 'Secretariat' services, however, the Secretary of the IANWGE clarified that UN Women does not have the resources to provide such services. It was further noted that at headquarters alone UN Women is already involved in close to 120 inter-agency mechanisms.

IANWGE members were invited to strategize on its work and on how can the IANWGE members better support UN Women in lobbying for greater integration of gender equality in the numerous forums in which it is involved.

Advocacy efforts need to be channelled towards the Post 2015 development framework and the Post-2015 inter-agency processes which are on-going. The members of the Network should consider UN Women representatives (in addition to their respective entity representatives) who are involved in various inter-agency processes as additional conduits to contribute to the on-going dialogue.

Action points for follow-up:

- WomenWatch was to be redesigned and integrated to UN Women's new server. IANWGE was invited to provide inputs on the contents, in the design and in the fundraising efforts.
- UN Women and IOM were to circulate the draft terms of reference of the task force on Gender and Migration, for endorsement. UN entities were to express willingness for membership.
- UNESCO decided to step out as co-chair of the task force on Climate Change. IANWGE members were invited to express willingness to undertake this role.
- Women and Justice was invited to finish its work within a year, coming up with a specific output to be reported on in 2013.
- On Women's Economic Empowerment, UN-Women would circulate a revised 2012 work plan of the task force to the IANWGE membership.

- Rural women, climate change and MDGs were invited to revise their terms of reference for a possible merging to focus on the Rio + 20 and the discussions and follow-up on the post 2015 development framework.

## **8. Capacity development of effective gender mainstreaming**

Ms. Clemencia Munoz, UN Women Chief of the Training Center in Santo Domingo, and Mr. Michele Ribotta, learning Manager of the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) briefed the Network on the establishment of a UN Women Training Center. The Centre is part of the recently established Policy Division which is, among others, responsible for the design and oversight the training and capacity development programmes of UN Women. Its first annual work plan for 2012 aims to establish the basis of the Training Centre and develop and implement its first curricula focusing on strengthening capacities for UN Women strategic areas in complement to the Learning Management System (LMS) and the UN Women Human Resources Learning Unit.

Mr. Michele Ribotta provided a quick overview of recent developments and challenges and presented a draft step by step proposal for finalizing the online mandatory training course over the next 12/14 months.

During the discussion several participants voiced their concern over the lack of progress on this item. In addition, some participants questioned the need for the course and the relevance of the EGM held in Turin, Italy in 2010, as a basis for follow up. Some participants also emphasized the need for a course for senior managers. Participants also noted that if the basic course was to be developed, it should build on the work already undertaken by various entities, particularly the entity-specific basic gender courses of UNDP, ILO, ILO-ITC, UNESCO, etc. The possibility of drawing on the IANWGE EGM meeting held on the subject was also recognized.

Despite efforts to convey a unique voice, it appeared difficult to generate a consensus on the way forward. UN Women and UNSSC confirmed their readiness to support any stage of this process. UNSSC also clarified that it can be involved as deemed appropriate by the members of the Network, and on a cost recovery basis.

Suggested action points for follow-up:

- UN Women, including through the support of its Training Center, will take the first step in developing a draft course curriculum, outline and content drawing on existing similar basic courses available at UN entities such as UNDP and UNESCO.
- UN Women invites members of the network to join a task team to that effect.
- The curriculum and outline would be shared with IANWGE members for comments. In light of the comments the content will be developed and presented again in draft form to the IANWGE members for comments and feedback.
- Once these are received, the final version will be produced and available to all IAWNGE members.

## **9. New and emerging issues**

The session on new and emerging issues focused on two related issues: the mainstreaming of gender into the disaster risk reduction strategy (DRR) and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20).

**a. Mainstreaming of gender into the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (DRR)**

On the first topic on the mainstreaming of gender into the disaster risk reduction strategy (DRR), Ms. Feng Min Kan, Special Advisor of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, started her presentation by inviting the participants to take a minute to visualize the impact of recent disasters, such as those triggered by earthquake in Japan, floods in Thailand and severe drought in Africa. She then underlined the fact that both disasters and disaster risks are on the rise, posing great threat to sustainable development. Reducing disaster risk has therefore become the priority of both the UN Secretary-General and the President of the UN General Assembly in 2012. She emphasized that disasters affected men and women differently due to the gendered vulnerabilities. UNISDR has been working with other UN agencies and partners to make disaster risk reduction gender sensitive. She mentioned that progress has been made in providing policy guidance and publishing good practices but challenges remain. To overcome them, she said that both disaster risk reduction and gender are cross-cutting issues and there is a need to build win-win partnership between IANWGE and UNISDR, especially between UN women and UNISDR. In this regard, she said that it is important to follow-up the meeting the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Ms. Michelle Bachelet in 2011 to discuss the cross-cutting issues and collaboration. Several IANWGE members agreed to organize trainings to promote gender issues and DRR. UNISDR requested that meetings are organized with Geneva-based focal points in order to collaborate on these issues. IANWGE member institutions need to lobby governments to collect more disaggregated data during disasters and other complex emergencies. ECLAC noted that governments of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean have requested an expert meeting in 2013 on gender mainstreaming in the context of natural disasters.

Action points for follow-up:

- WHO stressed the need for disaggregated data on the effect of disasters on women versus men, old versus young, etc., as critical to gain in efficiency in terms of targeting resources.
- UNESCO offered assistance to develop a training with UNISDR. ITC invited UNISDR to a lunch-time training with Geneva colleagues on DRR and gender-sensitivity.

**b. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20)**

On the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20), Ms. Lakshmi Puri briefed the Network on the gender related preparatory work which has been led by UN Women and called the IANWGE to seize the Rio+20 Conference as a vital opportunity to place gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of the new development model. IANWGE members were to agree upon one common set of recommendations for any upcoming opportunity for advocacy, including the discussions in the context of the Summit of Women Heads of State and Governments to be held on 20 June 2012. It is anticipated that the insights and vision of the leaders on women empowerment, gender equality and sustainable development will be reflected in a Declaration to inform the outcome of Rio+20. Also, when comments to the post 2015 development framework are shared, IANWGE should advocate for the inclusion of a gender dimension given that MDG 3 was not achieved, which negatively affected the achievement of other MDGs.

The discussion covered the importance of agreement on the goal of incorporating gender equality within the negotiations and outcome of the post 2015 development framework.

IANWGE members request that a briefing on the process for Rio+20 to be shared, especially amongst agencies not based in New York. This briefing could be on a bi-weekly or monthly basis, used for advocacy purposes. To strategize UN Women proposed to consolidate some of the IANWGE task forces



to make a strong concerted statement and impact on the Rio+20 outcome and beyond, e.g. Rural Women, Gender and Climate change and Gender Equality the MDGs.

Action points for follow-up:

- IANWGE members were to agree upon one common set of recommendations that can be used in any up-coming advocacy opportunity.
- The Network would revise and provide feedback on the Zero-draft and to send their suggestions to UN Women by 29 February.
- Opportunities for advocacy include the discussions in the context of the Summit of women Heads of State and Governments to be held on 20 June 2012.
- Also, when comments to the post 2015 development framework are shared, IANWGE should advocate for the inclusion of a gender dimension. The goal is to have gender equality incorporated within the negotiation process and outcome, in addition to ensuring specific gender indicators of the post 2015 development framework.
- IANWGE members request that a briefing on the process for Rio+20 to be shared, especially amongst agencies not based in New York. This briefing could be on a bi-weekly or monthly basis, used for advocacy purposes.

## 10. Status of women in the United Nations

Ms. Aparna Mehrotra quoted UN Women Executive Director Ms. Michelle Bachelet as saying in her opening remarks at the 2011 CSW “As a standard-setting organization, the UN has a particular responsibility to lead by example.” The representation of women in the UN system is 40 per cent, ranging from a high of 57.3 per cent at the P-2 level to a low of 25.7 per cent at the D-2 level as of 31 December 2010, the latest figures available. There is a glass ceiling at the P-4 level (38.4 per cent). Over the two year period 31 December 2008 to 31 December 2010 the highest rate of growth was 6.5 percentage points (from 24.4 to 30.9 per cent) at the Ungraded level (ASG and above). However the overall change in percentage points for the Professional level and above was only 1.6 per cent. The Secretary-General has consistently expressed strong support for gender balance in the UN system, particularly at the P-4 to D-2 level where progress has been slow. Actions underway in the UN Coordination Division include the development of gender balance indicators in the SWAP; a report and policy template on Gender-Based Violence and the Workplace as an output from the December 2011 Expert Group Meeting; informal consultations with gender balance focal points to capture their wisdom and experience; input on gender and ageing for the UNFPA report “The Status of the World’s Older Women and Progress since the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing”; and advocacy for workplace flexibility including an EGM. Throughout the informal consultations, the gender balance focal points recommended strengthening advocacy and coordination, holding joint events and strengthening communications. Further details on the issues presented are available at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/fpianwge2012.htm>.

Participants shared the successes and challenges in their organizations in achieving gender parity. The experience demonstrated that leadership from the highest level of the organization was needed and that data (such as that handed out at the meeting by the focal point for each entity, showing trends over a ten year period and comparing the entity with the UN system) was most useful for advocacy. Also, biannual reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the Improvement in the Status of Women in the UN System were cited as effective and useful advocacy tools.

Entities requested more communications and networking opportunities on the issue of representation of women in the UN system, also to look to means to strengthen the implementation of temporary special measures which are, at best, on the books in some organizations but have little meaning. Entities

stressed challenges in dealing with issues related to [gender-based violence and the workplace](#) and requested information and analysis of cases on harassment, discrimination, sexual harassment etc. in the context of the administration of justice system. UN Women ought to work to bring the information together for analysis and advocacy. Many also said that it was a challenge to find good practices among other UN entities that they could adapt for their own use. The assistance of UN Women was requested in this regard.

Action points for follow-up:

- Entities were encouraged to use the materials in the PowerPoint and on the website for advocacy in their organizations.
- Gender Based Violence and the Workplace is a significant problem for some organizations. The template for a policy on Gender Based Violence and the Workplace will be posted on the website soon.
- Agencies requested to see what others' policies contain especially on justice and gender parity. UN Women plans to do this through the SWAP knowledge bank.
- The Focal Point for Women was invited to visit several entities (PAHO, WFP, UNCCC, Rome based entities etc.) to advise on the development of a gender parity policy also in the context of the SWAP for which UN Women advocacy in person was cited as generally helpful and needed.

## **11. Addressing violence against women in a coherent manner**

The session comprised the participation of Ms. Aldijana Sisic (manager of the Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign), Ms. Meryem Aslan (Trust Fund Adviser ); Ms. Anne Eyrignoux and Ms. Dina Deligiorgis (UN Women programme specialists), Ms. Patricia Fernandez-Pacheco (UN Coordination Specialist, MDGF) and Ms. Raquel Lagunas (UNDP Senior Adviser on Institutional Development).

Ms. Aldijana Sisic (UNiTE Secretariat) updated the Network on the Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women. The major achievements have been: i) building UN leadership on violence against women (VAW); ii) building active partnership with Member States; providing a platform and visibility for the campaign with global advocates; and iii) supporting social mobilization on the issue.

Reflecting the leadership of the United Nations, the Campaign has supported a sustainable programme of work, bringing all agencies under one umbrella, which has increased the impact of efforts at the country level. This was illustrated in the increased reports of joint programmes on VAW (96 in 2009 compared with 28 in 2004) and partnerships, such as the 51 proposals submitted to the United Nations Trust Fund by the United Nations Country Teams for joint programmes. Examples of high-level engagement with Member States include statements of support by the President of Costa Rica; the Cambodian government linking the relevance of campaign with implementation of its National Action Plan on VAW; growth in the network of male leaders; and broad social mobilization campaigns in Uruguay, Seychelles and Namibia. UNiTE has expanded its engagement with activists, supporting the promotion of national level champions, including athletes, musicians and artists. Young people were engaged in the campaign through the T-shirt design competition for young men 18-25 (resulting in 600+ designs and 300,000 visitors from 195+ countries on a dedicated website). There are plans to continue to engage young people, parliamentarians, and others in 2012.

Ms. Meryem Aslan, Trust Fund Adviser (UN MDTF) briefed the Network on the 15 years of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. The presentation highlighted the roles of UN entities as both grantees and stakeholders / decision-makers of the UNTF, noting that from 2011 (15<sup>th</sup> cycle), 18 inter-agency advisory committees were held from 16 countries (involving 15 agencies), resulting in 22

grantees totalling USD 17.5 million. In 2012, 20 agencies are already involved in the decision-making process (including at sub-regional and country-levels). Grantees include: 12 Joint Programmes totalling USD 1.2 million, involving 12 agencies (including ECLAC, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, others). In 2012, 49 applications were received from UNCTs. Recent developments from the UNTF Secretariat include the use of an online application system; and the launch of an online grant management system to capture and analyze lessons learned and results from across the world which will be used for the current grant cycle. In 2012, the UNTF received 2,210 applications from 121 countries totalling USD 1.1 billion. An analysis was shared with PAC members and can also be shared with IANWGE members if there is interest. UN entities were invited to participate more in the grant management system and to send requests for information and lessons, which can inform their own programmes.

Ms. Anne Eyrignoux presented [the Secretary-General's Database on Violence against Women](#), which was created following a GA Resolution in 2007 and launched in March 2009. The Database covers laws; policies; institutional mechanisms; services available and other measures to address VAW, with data and specific documents available for download (e.g. legal, policy measures; policies; and national action plans on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325(2000) on Women and Peace and Security). Data is primarily collected via questionnaires sent to member states. Up to date 121 states have responded and updates on which Member States have submitted responses are featured on homepage. Additional data is collected from updates received from States and additional research from official sources (e.g. treaty body reports, agency/government websites; etc.). Information on the site can be found using the country search or advanced search, which can be filtered by measure, forms of violence, region/country, years, and keyword. Questions and comments regarding the Database should be sent to: [vaw.database@unwomen.org](mailto:vaw.database@unwomen.org).

Ms. Dina Deligiorgis presented an overview of [the Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls](#), a one-stop portal providing evidence based programming support aimed at country-level practitioners. The Knowledge Centre was launched in March 2010 and draws upon the evidence base from evaluations, but especially experience and expertise from practitioners, civil society, government, and UN agencies at country-level. Two key features of the site include programming modules and the tools database. The modules are available by sector (e.g. health, security, justice); populations (e.g. men and boys); and approaches (e.g. safe cities; primary prevention), with guidance complemented by country case studies, promising practices and tools for use/ adaptation in programming. The tools database has over 800 resources in 60+ languages; can support customised searches using filters by region, category (manual, training, audio-visual materials, etc.); language; etc. Regular monitoring of site ensures it meets demand of target audience (country-level programmers) and roughly three quarters of registered users on the site are from developing country contexts or represent non-governmental organizations. Some UN agencies have already contributed to the Centre via case studies; tools (in any language); or vetting content; and additional contributions are welcome ([evaw.helpdesk@unwomen.org](mailto:evaw.helpdesk@unwomen.org)).

Ms. Patricia Fernandez-Pacheco (UN Coordination Specialist, MDGF) noted that the fund has been operating since 2006, but results are only now emerging. Its objectives are related to poverty reduction and advancing gender equality, linked with the Millennium Declaration. There are 120 joint programmes through the fund across eight thematic areas in 49 countries (totalling USD 705 million). Most use multi-sectoral approaches involving governments, UN agencies and civil society organizations. UNDP manages the majority of resources among agencies, with almost half of initiatives in LAC (18 countries), and a presence in all regions. The dedicated gender window is nearly 90 million (13 joint programmes); although gender is mainstreamed across seven other windows (USD 615 million/115 countries). Current work on Knowledge Management with UNDP and UN Women will create two products: an analysis UNDG Performance Indicators, which demonstrates gap in

accountability despite existence of guidance and documentation of effective practices in promoting gender equality (case studies currently being developed).

Ms. Raquel Lagunas (UNDP Senior Adviser on Institutional Development), highlighted that on average, there were six agencies per joint programme. Programmes can be organized into three categories: service provision, attention to victims and capacity development; outreach and engaging men and boys; and laws and development of national action plans. Highlights of preliminary findings from programme experience suggest that joint programme must be aligned with national priorities and promote national ownership to be effective; there is need for improved coordination mechanisms among agencies; and although it is too early to evaluate the impact (final evaluations currently taking place), there is some indication that the initiative has led to the development of a baseline data; adoption of national laws and approval of national action plans; large-scale campaigns, etc. Sustainability is challenging and knowledge management efforts have included knowledge-sharing events in 2011 and knowledge transfer agreements – peer exchanges (Brazil- Colombia; others). Much information available at MDG-F website and the presentation can be shared with members.

Action points for follow-up:

- The UNTF invited UN entities to ask more from the Trust Fund Secretariat- in regards to grantees, lessons learned, analysis of results; encourages agencies to provide more guidance on the type of analysis and information they need from the Trust Fund; and welcomed agency inputs into the content and features of its new online grant management system and feedback on the recent data analysis completed for the grant applications submitted for 2012.
- UNDP invited UN entities to share suggestions and contribute to the process of capturing and articulating efforts of Joint Programmes.
- UN Women invited UN entities to submit contributions of Members State measures (legislative, policy, institutional, etc.) for the Secretary-General's Database on VAW and encouraged colleagues to send any queries on the database to: [vaw.database@unwomen.org](mailto:vaw.database@unwomen.org).
- UN Women welcomed also additional contributions from UN entities to the Virtual Knowledge Centre: by sharing any relevant guidance or tools (manuals, training materials, etc.); contributing to reviews of the module or specific inputs within them; as well as dissemination of the site among agency colleagues and partners: [evaw.helpdesk@unwomen.org](mailto:evaw.helpdesk@unwomen.org).
- UN Women invited colleagues from the Network to self-identify if they would be interested in joining dedicated working groups for consultations on forthcoming EVAW priorities, as tasks emerge, firstly for the CSW 2013 process which will focus on the issue, including advocacy related to expanding universal access to services.
- The Network agreed to continue advancing the violence against women & GBV focusing in working on a coordinated manner towards the 57th session of CSW which will focus on issue. Also, in the General Assembly Biennial Resolution on the intensification of efforts for the elimination of violence against women, the Secretary-General's action plan; and the Post-2015 Agenda
- The Network agreed to continue advancing work on ending violence against women focusing in working on a coordinated manner towards the 57th session of CSW, as well as in other areas such as the General Assembly Biennial Resolution on the intensification of efforts for the elimination of violence against women, the Secretary-General's action plan and the Post-2015 Agenda.

## 12. Women and Peace and Security

The session comprised the participation of Ms. Sarah Douglas from UN Women, Ms. Elisabeth Scheper, from DPA, Ms. Clare Hutchinson from DPKO; and Ms. Letitia Anderson and Mr. Innocent Balemba Zahinda from OSRSG-SVC.

Ms. Sarah Douglas, from UN Women, emphasized two primary areas of policy level work on Women and Peace and Security (WPS): i) the strategic results framework hosting intermediate (2014) and longer-term (2020) targets; and ii) the Seven Point Action Plan including WPS targets and the Secretary-General's commitment that 15 per cent of UN funds in post-conflict countries go to gender equality and women's empowerment objectives. UN Women further noted ahead of schedule work on roll-out of the SCR 1325 indicators, and key examples of delivering better on-the-ground WPS support, including UN Women's support to women's grassroots peace-building. UN Women emphasized as next steps: i) increasing awareness in the field of the Strategic Results Framework, ii) accelerating the SCR 1325 indicators process; iii) comprehensive review and inventory of WPS architecture; iv) work on the Secretary-General 2012 report on WPS; and v) using the good offices of Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Ms. Michelle Bachelet to advance progress on WPS.

Ms. Elisabeth Scheper, from DPA, briefed the Network on DPA's reviewed progress made on 14 commitments on the WPS agenda including its three core responsibilities: i) supporting women's participation in conflict prevention/mediation – including a joint DPA-UN Women gender and mediation strategy; and providing gender expertise in conflict mediation/prevention through women in deployment roster and a standby team of mediation experts deployable within 72 hours; ii) preventing sexual violence in conflict (SVC) – including development of guidance and training for mediators and teams; and addressing SVC (with UN Action) in ceasefire and peace agreements; and iii) serving as lead entity on electoral support especially in post-conflict settings – including in Libya, Somalia. DPA underlined the presence of 14 special political missions and 4 regional offices performing WPS monitoring and reporting, and the success of including WPS mentions in the majority (72 per cent) of Security Council reports.

Ms. Clare Hutchinson from DPKO, highlighted progress made on providing gender advisors to peacekeeping missions, with all 15 missions having gender focal points. DPKO further updated IANWGE on progress on the four pillars structuring its WPS work: i) protection – including development of gender and military guidelines training modules, and operational guidelines for civilian, police and military components for the implementation of SCR 1820, 1888, 1960; ii) prevention – drafting DPKO/DFS early warning matrix, piloted in 2 DPKO missions (MONUSCO, UNMISS); iii) participation – strengthening women's political participation in 3 pilot countries – DRC, Haiti and Timor-Leste, and support to integrating gender into DPKO through a gender budgeting analysis of UNAMID; and iv) partnerships – coordination with UN partners on gender and elections and open days. She emphasized that over 125 thousand peacekeepers were deployed in countries, DPKO noted the availability of a plenitude of opportunities for conducting training on gender.

Ms. Letitia Anderson from UN Action/OSRSG-SVC – briefed the Network on the work of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) underscoring that work on SVC had produced several outcomes, including robust Security Council resolutions that (inter alia) require the exclusion of sexual violence from amnesties, forming a team of rapidly-deployable rule of law experts, and creation of dedicated leadership through the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSV-SVC). She further highlighted the recent debate in the Security Council of the first compliance report of the Secretary-General on implementation of SCR 1960, resulting in a progressive Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2012/3). The report was noted to include a list of parties credibly

suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of sexual violence, to recommend that the SRSG-SVC periodically brief the Security Council, and the Secretary-General establish monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence and continue to submit annual reports.

Mr. Innocent Balemba Zahinda, Team of Experts (ToE) on Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict, OSRSG-SVC – highlighted progress on assisting national authorities to strengthen rule of law and address impunity on SVC. Outlining efforts to collect and use forensic evidence, to support criminal/procedural law reform, and to protect witnesses/victims/justice operators, the ToE emphasized work in priority countries: i) DRC – supporting Prosecution Support Cells in South/North Kivu; accompanying the justice system through serious SV incidents since 2006; and providing assistance to a Specialized Court; ii) Guinea – assisting panel of judges in investigations, case building and prosecutions; iii) Liberia – supporting investigations, gathering and preserving evidence, developing a SGBV crimes unit, and assisting the rape law review process; and iv) South Sudan – contributing to constitution/SV legislation, and assessing justice system to guide planning. Key challenges included national ownership, and building on existing initiatives; encouraging cooperation between countries with comparable contexts; protecting witnesses/victims/justice operators; ensuring customary justice system's cater to women; and enhance community support to SV survivors.

The ensuing question and answer session centered on the call by the Network for conducting and disseminating an inventory of existing material on women and peace and security across UN entities, especially on training materials already available. Participants made concrete suggestions to better link work from regional commissions and agencies with that of UN Women, DPA, DPKO and UN Action including through development or adaptation of a course module for staff to enhance knowledge on the WPS agenda, in particular when deployed to post-conflict settings. Also, participants provided information on respective WPS-relevant projects including research and documentation centers on women and peace and security; linking IANWGE to gender-based violence information management systems; and existing studies on gender-based violence in labour sectors. Links with HIV and AIDS as an issue of concern for the Security Council were underlined. Many entities further underscored significant efforts at policy and national implementation levels on WPS. Broad agreement that sharing information, training and projects already constructed, including through the suggestion that UN Women serve as disseminating channel, emerged. All entities emphasized on-going work and support to IANWGE on Women and Peace and Security.

Action points for follow-up:

- Although no formal decisions were taken, the widespread agreement on the need to link entity-level work with that of IANWGE and UN system leads on women and peace and security was recognized. Broad links to disseminate information and link together existing platforms of action were largely agreed upon.

### **13. UN system-wide strategy on women's economic empowerment**

Ms. Yassine Fall, head of the UN Women's Economic Empowerment Cluster, presented the findings of a preliminary survey on women's economic empowerment (WEE) gathering information on the work of 16 out of 18 contacted UN entities. Twelve out of sixteen entities reported to have a specific dedicated policy, strategy and/or action plan for WEE (namely: ILO, UNCTAD, etc.). The survey illustrated that the UN system has a comparative advantage for promoting WEE, and that many initiatives addressing WEE have been successfully rolled out for member States over decades.

Many entities reported efforts to promote gender-responsive economic policy formulation and programming frameworks around women's livelihoods and economic opportunities, in particular in formal wage employment and through entrepreneurship. The main target groups of initiatives were women living in poverty and in rural areas, and women entrepreneurs. Respondents' key partners include governments, multilateral organizations, bilateral donors, academia, NGOs, private sector and foundations.

Despite the existence of these policies and initiatives, it is clear that they follow the mandates of the various entities and are not necessarily delivered in a coordinated manner throughout the system. There is a risk of "silo" approaches. There are both gaps in efforts to promote WEE and more attention needs to be placed on women in the informal sector and women in economic decision making. Improved coordination of efforts could help strengthen results for WEE. One area could be ensuring that the WEE is being addressed in global economic discussions, e.g. on inclusive growth, macroeconomic policies, IDA16, to ensure gender-responsive economic policy change.

UN-Women thanked ECLAC for preparing the draft TOR for the IANWGE Working Group on Policy Dialogue on WEE. UN Women informed the group that the monkey survey findings will be presented in a synthesis report to be circulated to IANWGE shortly. It focuses on UN entities' guiding normative and operational frameworks on women's economic empowerment, comparative advantages, gaps, challenges and lessons learned. It also provides possible recommendations to feed into the formulation of a UN system-wide strategy/framework on women's economic empowerment. Participants requested further clarity on next steps and expressed hope for increased coordination and joint activities in the future. Some mentioned the wish to see the World Bank and International Monetary fund as part of the Working Group. It was suggested that in the next stage members of the working group should identify key messages, who they wish to influence, and how.

In the discussion, participants highlighted the importance of promoting WEE within their organizations in line with their mandates and some of their key initiatives. Picking up on the proposal to prepare a system-wide strategy/framework, participants showed both enthusiasm and some concerns. For example, a clear definition of WEE is currently lacking. ILO proposed to use the framework of the decent work agenda (DWA), i.e. job creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue). However, it was noted that not all women are employed - although the DWA is aimed to cover the informal economy as well as formal - and that the definition would need to go beyond decent work to also include issues of access to and control over assets and voice, participation and decision-making. It was suggested that IANWGE prepare a common definition (or a listing of the agreed elements of WEE, expressed as the IANWGE's "common understanding") of WEE to serve as a starting point for a joint UN framework around WEE. Participants emphasized that they expect UN Women to provide strong leadership and pull the system together to create *one* voice on WEE that is broad enough to encapsulate the various mandates within the system. It was important to build on the momentum created around WEE at the UN-Women/CIDA global conference on WEE held in October 2011 in Ottawa, Canada.

In discussing a possible system-wide strategy/framework for WEE, there were differing views on how to proceed with the next steps. Some participants emphasized the need to move quickly with the preparation of such a UN system-wide strategy so as not to miss any important opportunities to influence strategic events (e.g. G20, Spring meetings of the World Bank / International Monetary Fund), while others stressed that that interaction with the G20 for example needs to be carefully thought through so as not to make mistakes/give incomplete messages that could jeopardize future opportunities. For example, it was suggested by UN Women that before entering into joint engagement in global policy dialogues (e.g. G20), CEB endorsement, through HLCP, would be helpful while others questioned this process. In response a proposal was put forward to distinguish between the system-wide strategy and the IANWGE Working Group on Policy Dialogue on WEE so as to permit the group to

advance in the advocacy activities while the strategy is being prepared. Responding to a suggestion for a more in-depth discussion of a possible common UN position around WEE to inform a CEB endorsement, ILO raised the possibility of hosting a three-day Expert Group Meeting in Geneva, subject to finance approval. Many participants emphasized the need to identify critical partners, including governments, academia and the private sector, for the joint work around WEE.

Concerns were also expressed that meeting the deadline for HLCP and CEB Autumn 2012 meetings would be too tight; the actual need to table such strategies with CEB also required clarification from the CEB secretariat. Some participants voiced concerns that WEE may be the most difficult issue around which the UN system could come together. It was suggested that other means of joint collaboration be explored, such as a common policy or a common position on WEE or through the existing working group on Policy dialogue. Another suggestion was a UN *coordination* framework for WEE, which would be more flexible than a *common* framework. Since WEE is very vast, it was suggested that the WEE agenda be broken down in different sub-components to make it more manageable. The Rio + 20 Conference, the UNCTAD XIII forthcoming Ministerial Conference and the post-2015 development framework, to name just a few, were recognized as important opportunities to feature prominently gender equality concerns and for joint collaboration. On the short run, the IANWGE suggested that a joint fact sheet on the gender dimensions for Rio+20 be prepared and lead by UN-Women (similar to the MDG Fact Sheet on Rural Women and the Latin America regional factsheets on WEE distributed by ECLAC).

Action points for follow-up:

UN-Women will:

- Circulate the synthesis report of the survey results on UN entities' guiding normative and operational frameworks on women's economic empowerment, comparative advantages, gaps, challenges and lessons learned.
- Revise the draft of the 2012 work plan of the IANWGE Task Force/Working Group on WEE, with clear timeline and deliverables, and send it to the Network for inputs, comments and suggestions.
- Lead the preparation of a joint fact sheet on gender equality and sustainable development to serve as a joint IANWGE input to the Rio+20 Conference. A draft outline will be circulated for IANWGE members' comments, inputs and suggestions.
- Share its suggested language on gender equality and women's empowerment in the zero draft outcome for Rio+20.

#### **14. UN Women's coordination strategy**

Mr. Moez Doraid, Director of UN Women Coordination Division, briefed the Network on the on-going work on their internal Coordination Strategy. The Director noted that there were four main objectives of the Strategy: i) enhanced UN system coherence and mobilization of joint action for GEEW; ii) increased system-wide gender mainstreaming; iii) strengthened accountability for the work on GEEW; and iv) improved gender balance and the status of women in the UN system.

Approaches to achieve the objectives would include promotion of joint action and interagency collaboration; strengthening leadership and work of UNCTs and gender theme groups; supporting gender mainstreaming through technical cooperation; provision of knowledge products and capacity development; facilitating the establishment and use of accountability frameworks; and advocating and monitoring progress towards gender balance and the status of women in the UN system.



The Entity would work through existing coordination mechanisms, such as the CEB and its three pillars (HLCP, HLCM and UNDG) at the global level; the Regional Directors' team, regional commissions and the regional coordination mechanism at regional level; and the Resident Coordinator system at country level.

In the discussion, participants welcomed the presentation of the draft strategy by UN Women and made a number of suggestions that could contribute to enhance synergies within the work of the system. Areas where IANWGE could focus included: assessing the effectiveness of the gender groups, addressing the difficulties for bringing coherence between the normative and coordination work, creating synergies between the development and the humanitarian work, and enhancing the communication between the Network, OCHA and DOCO. Given the coordination role of regional commissions, UN Women was invited to work closely with them.

It was noted that the Network must be the basis for building a strong knowledge and information sharing management system, capable of showcasing the system-wide results and enforcing joint resource mobilization for joint programmes. UN Women should enhance its role as a strong driver for gender equality issues at the country level and interface with governments supporting them in advancing the gender equality agenda. It would be important also to map the existing capacities within the UN system on the ground in order to promote partnerships in which each entity would contribute their comparative advantage within their respective mandate. IANWGE members must agree on the Network's overall objective and identify the key development messages to advocate for. At the present point of time, participants identified IANWGE's role in influencing the Rio+20 Conference, the post-2015 development framework agenda, at the CEB and the G-20. Participants agreed the establishment of UN Women should be a motivation for other agencies to redouble their efforts and investments in gender equality, and sustain their work. Yet, it was alarming that governments were channelling their funds only to UN Women. Therefore, UN Women was called on to support UN entities in their efforts to obtain funding for gender equality work.

Action points to follow-up:

- To enhance coherence and effective coordination, IANWGE members must agree upon overall objective of the Network and identify the key messages jointly to advocate for. For the period 2012, the Network decided to focus on influencing the Rio+20 Conference, the post-MDGs, the CEB Spring session, and where possible the G20.
- Regarding the Rio + 20 Conference on sustainable development, UN Women agreed to collect inputs from IANWGE members to form a reference document/policy brief, which can then be used by members as appropriate to influence the outcome document.
- IANWGE participants agreed to send their comments on the zero-draft to UN Women, and to communicate to their respective agencies the centrality of gender-equality for the post-MDGs.
- Also, regarding UN Women's role in mainstreaming gender throughout the system, UN Women would continue to compile and disseminate good practices on inter-agency work on gender, including gender-mainstreaming and work at the regional level.

## **15. Other matters**

### **a. GENDERNET / IANWGE biennial joint workshop**

Ms. Patricia Cortes, UN Women programme specialist, briefed the Network on the OECD DAC GENDERNET and IANWGE biennial joint workshop which in 2012 focused on "Food security and land rights: empowering rural women", and was held in ECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 31 January – 1 February 2012. It benefited from the participation of more than ninety development actors from bilateral and multilateral agencies including directors and/or representatives of gender units from Ministries of Development Cooperation, Foreign Affairs, and the OECD, gender advisors, agricultural specialists, civil society and the academia. From

the UN system, representatives from FAO, ICT/ILO IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNIDO, UN Habitat, UN Women, WFP and World Bank participated in the workshop.

Based on country level initiatives, discussions focused on the role and challenges faced by multilateral and bilateral agencies in delivering on international commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of rural women. Participants agreed to enhance their efforts and support to Member States in their work towards closing the gender gap in agriculture. Special emphasis would be placed on the following key messages: i) supporting rural women as leaders and agents of change at all levels, including at the local level; ii) strengthening rural women's property and user rights, including land rights, in all societies and in conflict and post-conflict situations; iii) building the evidence base of what works for rural women, for policy making and dialogue; iv) facilitating rural women's access to markets/value chain development and ensuring that short-term investments aim also at long-term results; v) scaling up and replicating innovative practices including through south-south cooperation and with non-traditional donors, integrating gender equality into large scale investments, and harnessing local knowledge, traditions and community based approaches when designing and implementing development programmes; vi) enhancing efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on rural women and that the benefits of green growth flow to women; vii) scaling up investment in the nutrition of rural women and girls and viii) ensuring accountability through tracking and monitoring funding, and ensuring appropriate targeting of funding for rural women's empowerment. Further, participants also agreed to use the identified key messages within their own agencies as well as forthcoming opportunities into the intergovernmental agenda for 2012, including CSW and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and the international dialogue on the post 2015 development framework.

#### **b. Briefing on UN Evaluation Group's work on gender mainstreaming across the UN system**

As requested by the Network, UN Women invited Ms. Inga Sniukaite as representative of the UN Evaluation Group, to brief the Network on the "Repository of evaluations" on gender equality in the UN System called "Gender Equality Evaluation Portal". This repository will be launched in mid-2012 and aims at establishing a widely accessible full-text database of evaluations that will serve as the tools to strengthen and promote the exchange of findings, conclusions and recommendations gleaned from evaluations with stakeholders and potential users (like other donors, for example), in order to have a wider impact on learning and to contribute to improved policy design and programming in the area of gender equality. Further information can be found at: [www.unwomen.org/about-us/evaluation/](http://www.unwomen.org/about-us/evaluation/)

Action point to follow up:

- UN Women called upon the IANWGE to assist in compiling the evaluations already collected, encouraged the promotion of the evaluation database among IANWGE members, and requested feedback on the developed repository.

#### **c. International women's day 2013**

On International Women's Day 2013, it was tentatively agreed that the topic should relate to sustainable development and the business case for gender equality. Some ideas for a punchy, media-friendly theme included:

- Gender Equality: Right and Smart
- Strong Women, Healthy Societies
- Gender equality equals progress for humanity
- Gender equality for a better world
- Human development and gender equality
- Gender equality and holistic development

- Women for strong development
- Strong women, strong development
- Strong women, strong world

Action point to follow up:

- The Secretariat was requested to examine the proposals and send a proposal to the IANWGE for further discussion.

#### **d. Evaluation of the annual session**

Participants warmly thanked the Secretariat's work on the organization of the annual session and recognized excellent Secretariat support and effectiveness on summarizing daily the action points that had been decided at each previous day's session, which enhanced the seriousness of the Networks' commitment on the way forward. The meeting had helped to identify gender-related global policies and initiatives requiring system-wide attention, for example the SWAP, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and the need for strengthening coordination of the work of the system in the area of women's economic empowerment. The Network also recognized as excellent the report of the task forces.

Suggestions for improvement were collected in the discussion, through informal conversations and through an evaluation form completed at the end of the meeting. Issues raised and proposal for improvement include:

Substantive issues:

- Discuss a new phase for the IANWGE. The Secretariat agreed to circulate a draft for renewed terms of reference on which the Network members would comment, provide feedback and later adopt.
- Clearly define the objectives of the Network and have them as bases to set the agenda of the annual sessions.
- For each session define a theme focus to evaluate progress and identify gaps and challenges across the UN system.
- Promote a more strategic approach and more action-oriented discussions on specific issues.
- The meeting should focus strongly on evaluating and agreeing on alternatives for improving coordination and coherence within the UN system's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, on identifying upcoming opportunities for advocating for, and influencing the mainstreaming of gender into all normative and operational work. In the international fora related to the development agenda, IANWGE should focus on identifying entry points to ensure the incorporation of the gender perspective into the goals, targets and indicators of the negotiations, outcomes and the respective follow-up. Also, the IANWGE should focus on following up the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programming work, ensuring that adequate attention is placed on gender equality issues.
- Maintain the SWAP, CSW, CEDAW and women's economic empowerment on the agenda for next meetings.

Format issues related to the annual session:

- As this is a decision-making forum the presence of the chair and / or co-chair throughout meeting is recognized as critical. As possible, the participation of Ms. Bachelet in the closing session would be important.

- At the opening of the next annual session, have the Secretariat read the decisions adopted in the last annual session and inter-sessional meetings.
- Improve time management: A more flexible schedule for practitioners to speak amongst each other, and plan lunch time sharing for informal discussion and networking on relevant issues.
- Move towards a participatory format, rather than conventional presentation/discussion form. Can alternate between plenary and working groups.
- Fewer speakers per topic. The focus should be on the core messages that leaders of the different clusters would like to bring to the attention of the Network for discussion, agreement or for partnership.
- Circulate the “decisions taken” part of the draft report in time for members to review before the closing of the meeting.
- Invite members to help prepare the next agenda.

Action point to follow up:

- Secretariat to revise the evaluation and propose a way forward
- Secretariat to circulate the draft new TOR for comments, suggestions and endorsement

#### **e. Dates for the twelfth annual session of IANWGE**

The dates for next IANWGE Session: 27-28 February, and 1st March.

### **16. Closing remarks**

Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, addressed closing remarks of the annual session, in her capacity as Vice Chair of the Network. Ms. Puri thanked the membership for their contribution to a successful annual session and for their tireless work in supporting and promoting the work on gender equality and the empowerment of women across the UN System. She emphasized the important role IANWGE plays in providing a coordinated and substantive contribution to the evolution of normative frameworks and the development agenda, and recognized that for 2012, the annual intergovernmental meetings such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the post-2015 development framework, provide important entry points for the Network to advocate for gender considerations. In this regard, Ms. Puri reiterated her call for a commitment towards promoting a gender perspective in the zero draft outcome document for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and its follow-up, as well as in discussions and outcomes related to the post-2015 development agenda. She commended the IANWGE for embracing the development of the System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) and expressed UN Women’s readiness to provide continued support on the way forward. While emphasizing that the process had been an excellent example of what the UN system can do when its entities work coherently together, Ms. Puri requested further support of the IANWGE membership in ensuring the support of the entities’ representatives at the HLCP, HLCM and CEB meetings. Ms. Puri also stressed that UN Women was keen to revamp and refresh the format and modus operandi of IANWGE and encouraged the Network to follow-up on its decisions.

Annex 1



**ELEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION, 22-24 February 2012**

**New York, United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room A, NLB**

**Chair: Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women**  
**Vice Chair: Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women**  
**Secretary: Mr. Moez Doraid, Director UN Coordination Division, UN Women**

**AGENDA AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION**

<b>Wednesday 22 February</b>	
9:00-11:00	<p><b>OPENING SESSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Welcome Remarks: <u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women</li> <li>◆ Discussion and feedback</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisional agenda and annotations</li> <li>• <a href="#">United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women strategic plan, 2011–2013</a> (UNW/2011/9)</li> </ul>
11:00 –11:15	<p><b>COFFEE BREAK</b></p>
11:15–13:00	<p><b>ACCOUNTABILITY FOR UN SYSTEM’S WORK ON GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ System-wide action plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women System. <u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Senior Adviser on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women</li> <li>◆ Delivering as One: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDG Action Learning Programme on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.</li> <li>• <u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Noreen Khan, Gender Specialist, Gender and Rights Unit, Policy and Practice (UNICEF).</li> <li>• UNFPA-led country pilots on the Elimination of Violence against Women: Lessons learned from joint programming from the UN Inter-agency Task Force on Violence against Women. <u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Upala Devi, GBV Technical Adviser, UNFPA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women</li> <li>• Draft System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women: Performance Indicators Technical notes</li> <li>• Information note CEB System-Wide Action Plan: The Piloting Exercise.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECOSOC Resolution on: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (<a href="#">2011/6</a>)</li> <li>• Gender equality and women’s empowerment: A UNDG-sponsored action learning programme 2009-2010. Final report on Results and Lessons Learned. UNDG Task Theme on Gender Equality, UNICEF/UN women.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Initiating a Multi-Stakeholder Joint Programme on Violence against Women: A review of the processes and some key interim lessons learned</a>. Inter-Agency Task Force on Violence against Women, 2011.</li> </ul>
13:00-14:00	LUNCH
14:00 –15:00	<p>SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE: OUTCOME OF the <a href="#">OECD-DAC FOURTH HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON AID EFFECTIVENESS</a>, BUSAN, AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY WORK</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Nisreen Alami, Policy Advisor, Gender Responsive Budgeting, UN Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How was gender equality addressed at the Forum? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDG position and key messages</li> <li>• side event on “Progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment since the Paris Declaration”</li> <li>• the special session on “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment for Development Results”</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ Participation and key demands from women’s organizations (the Global Women’s Forum, Key demands and position regarding outcome and follow up)</li> <li>◆ Outcome document and the Busan Joint Action Plan on Gender Equality and Development and beyond</li> <li>◆ Discussion on follow up and next steps (including CSW review theme, DCF)</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing Accountability in Financing for Gender Equality (FfGE)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-Operation Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness</a>, Busan, Republic of Korea, 29 November-1 December 2011</li> <li>• Busan Joint Action Plan for Gender Equality and Development</li> <li>• Fourth High Level Forum in Busan: Broadening the notion of development effectiveness? (NGLS, 2011)</li> </ul>
15:00 – 16:00	<p>ENHANCING WOMEN’S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND ROLE IN DECISION-MAKING AT ALL LEVELS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDPs’ work on political parties and women in the parliaments. <u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Suki Beavers, UNDP</li> <li>• DPA’s work electoral assistance. <u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Mansour Sadeghi, Electoral Assistance Division DPA</li> <li>• UN Women’s work on advancing women’s political participation and leadership. <u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Begona Lasagabaster, Political Adviser, UN Women</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Women &amp; Elections. Guide to promoting the participation of women in elections</a>. United Nations, Department of Political Affairs.</li> <li>• <a href="#">DPKO/DFS–DPA joint guidelines on enhancing the role of women in post-conflict electoral processes</a>. United Nations, 2007</li> <li>• General recommendation No. 25, on article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, on temporary special measures <a href="http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/General%20recommendation%2025%20(English).pdf">http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/recommendations/General%20recommendation%2025%20(English).pdf</a></li> </ul>

16:00 - 16:45	<p>MATTERS RELATING TO THE 56TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN</p> <p><u>Priority theme:</u> <i>The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges.</i></p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Christine Brautigam, Executive Secretary CSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Update</li> <li>◆ Identifying a set of IANWGE messages and recommendations for CSW</li> <li>◆ Steps for transmitting messages to CSW / Preparing joint statement</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">E/CN.6/2012/1</a>: Annotated provisional agenda</li> <li>• <a href="#">E/CN.6/2012/1/Add.1</a>: Proposed organization of work</li> <li>• <a href="#">E/CN.6/2012/2</a>: Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women</li> <li>• <a href="#">E/CN.6/2012/3</a>: Report of the Secretary-General on the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges</li> <li>• <a href="#">E/CN.6/2012/4</a>: Empowerment of rural women: the role of gender-responsive governance and institutions - Report of the Secretary-General</li> </ul>
16:45 - 17:30	<p>MATTERS RELATING TO CEDAW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Update on the work of OHCHR.</li> </ul> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Gaynel Curry, OHCHR.</p>
<b>Thursday 23 February</b>	
9:30 - 11:00	<p>UPDATES ON, AND REVIEW OF THE WORK OF IANWGE AND ITS DIFFERENT TASK FORCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Rural Women</li> <li>◆ Gender and Trade</li> <li>◆ Gender and Migration</li> <li>◆ Gender and Climate Change</li> <li>◆ Women's Access to Justice</li> <li>◆ Gender Equality and the MDGs</li> <li>◆ Women Watch</li> </ul> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and discussion of the Terms of Reference for the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality</li> </ul>
11:00 –11:15	COFFEE BREAK
11:15 – 12:45	<p>CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR EFFECTIVE GENDER MAINSTREAMING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Towards a UN system-wide capacity development module</li> <li>◆ UN Women's Training Centre: Enhancing gender training for the UN system</li> <li>◆ Discussion and way forward</li> </ul> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <p>Mr. Michele Ribotta, learning Manager, UNSSC  Ms. Clemencia Muñoz Tamayo, Chief Training Center and Country Representative, UN Women</p> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint Presentation</li> </ul>
12:45 - 14:00	LUNCH

14:00 - 15:00	<p><b>NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20). <u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women</li> <li>◆ Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive. <u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Feng Min Kan, Special Advisor of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, The United Nations, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction(UNISDR)</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Making Disaster Risk Reduction Gender-Sensitive. Policy and Practical Guidelines.</a> Published by UNISDR, UNDP and IUCN. Geneva, Switzerland, June 2009.</li> </ul>
15:00 - 16:00	<p><b>IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE UNITED NATIONS</b></p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Senior Adviser on Coordination and Focal Point for Women in the UN System, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women)</p>
16:00 - 17:30	<p><b>ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN A COHERENT MANNER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update - Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women <u>Speaker:</u> Aldijana Sisic, UNiTE Secretariat</li> <li>• Update – 15 years of the UN Trust Fund <u>Speaker:</u> Meryem Aslan, Trust Fund Adviser (UN MDTF)</li> <li>• Lead on-line resources: the Secretary-General Database (mandated by General Assembly Resolution A/RES/61/143) and the Virtual Knowledge Centre (evidence-based programming/implementation). <u>Speakers:</u> Ms. Dina Deligiorgis and Ms. Anne Eyrignoux, UN Women</li> <li>• Briefs by UN Agencies on New Developments on Violence against Women: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Addressing violence against women in a coherent manner. MDGF Gender Window –UNDP. <u>Speakers:</u> Ms. Raquel Lagunas, Senior Adviser on Institutional Development and Ms. Patricia Fernandez-Pacheco, UN Coordination Specialist, MDGF</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Way Forward &amp; Discussion</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls - <a href="http://www.endvawnow.org">http://www.endvawnow.org</a></li> <li>• The Secretary-General’s Database on Violence against Women - <a href="http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/home.action">http://webapps01.un.org/vawdatabase/home.action</a></li> <li>• UN Trust Fund Outcome Mapping Report <a href="http://www.unwomen.org/publications/mapping-of-grantees-outcomes-the-united-trust-fund-to-end-violence-against-women-2006-to-mid-2011/">www.unwomen.org/publications/mapping-of-grantees-outcomes-the-united-trust-fund-to-end-violence-against-women-2006-to-mid-2011/</a></li> <li>• UN Trust Fund brochure, Together for a Better Tomorrow: <a href="http://www.unwomen.org/publications/united-nations-trust-fund-to-end-violence-against-women-together-for-a-better-tomorrow/">www.unwomen.org/publications/united-nations-trust-fund-to-end-violence-against-women-together-for-a-better-tomorrow/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Friday 24 February</b>	
9:30 - 11:15	<p><b>WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Updates on Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on Women and Peace and Security (1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010)</li> </ul> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sarah Douglas, UN-Women</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Clare Hutchinson, DPKO</li> <li>• Ms. Elisabeth Scheper, DPA</li> <li>• Ms. Letitia Anderson, UN Action/OSRSG-SVC</li> <li>• Mr. Innocent Balemba Zahinda, Team Leader, Team of Experts: Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict, OSRSG-SVC</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Discussion: Role and responsibilities of IANWGE and UN Women in ensuring a coordinated approach to the full implementation of Security Council resolutions on Women and Peace and Security</li> <li>◆ Update on the Standing Committee on Women and Peace and Security</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report of the Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security (<a href="#">document S/2011/598</a>)</li> <li>• Statement by the President of the Security Council (<a href="#">S/PRST/2011/20</a>)</li> <li>• Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (<a href="#">S/2012/33</a>)</li> </ul>
11:15 –11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 – 13:00	<p>UN SYSTEM-WIDE STRATEGY ON WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Yassine Fall, Chief - Economic Empowerment Section, Un Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Role of UN Women in fostering a system-wide strategy on women’s economic empowerment</li> <li>◆ Role of IANWGE in fostering a system-wide strategy on women’s economic empowerment</li> </ul>
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 - 15:45	<p>UN WOMEN’S COORDINATION STRATEGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Presentation of the Strategy for implementing the system-wide and inter-agency mandates and functions of UN Women: Towards greater coherence and accountability for the work of the UN system on gender equality and the empowerment of women.</li> </ul> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Mr. Moez Doraid, Director, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Discussion: Identification of key issues to be addressed to fostering improved coordination within the UN System in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PowerPoint Presentation: Towards greater coherence and accountability for the work of the UN system on gender equality and the empowerment of women, 2011</li> </ul>
15:45-16:30	<p>OTHER MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Report on the 2012 Joint Biennial Workshop of the IANWGE and the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET)</li> </ul> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Patricia Cortes, UN Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Theme and on plans for International Women’s Day 2013</li> <li>◆ Dates for the Twelfth Session of IANWGE on 2013</li> </ul> <p><u>Background documentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key messages of the 2012 Joint Biennial Workshop of the IANWGE and the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET)</li> </ul>
16:30-17:00	<p>CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u> Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women</p>

**Message from IANWGE to the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

The United Nations' Inter-Agency Network of Women and Gender Equality, comprising 25 UN entities urges Governments and all stakeholders to ensure that rural women and girls are high on their agendas. Recent data and information gathered by this Network provide evidence that rural women and girls lag far behind urban women and girls, and both urban and rural men and boys in every single MDG indicator. Rural women are far more likely to be illiterate, unemployed, underemployed, suffer domestic violence and to have less access to services, including those related to HIV, sexual reproductive and prenatal needs, than urban women. Their children are 1.4 times likelier to die before the age of 5 than those of urban women. Rural girls and women have less access to quality education and training – both formal and non – formal. Rural girls are more likely to be out of school than rural boys and twice as likely to be underweight and also twice as likely to be out of school than urban girls. Rural women's farms are less productive than men's farms by about 30 per cent only because they lack access to the resources such as land. If they have equal access to men, the number of hungry people could be reduced by 150 million.

We adhere to the key messages from the IANWGE-GENDERNET workshop on “Food security and land rights: empowering rural women” held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 31 January – 1 February, 2012.

The MDGs monitor progress on their targets, providing the global community and individual countries essential information for policy and planning. However, some are not gender sensitive and those that are, do not always capture disparities between rural and urban areas.

The Network calls upon Governments and all stakeholders to ensure that the post- 2015 development goals include gender-responsive indicators, targets and goals that capture rural women's livelihoods and rural/urban disparities in order to adequately monitor progress on rural women's economic empowerment and improvement in rural women and girls' lives.

Annex 3

**Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality IANWGE**  
**Participants in the 11th Annual Session, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 22 - 24 February 2012**

Organization	Name	Email
DESA	Ms. Valentina Resta AGI Project Coordinator, Governance and Public, Administration Branch, DPADM Tel: 212-963-8423	<a href="mailto:restav@un.org">restav@un.org</a>
	Ms. Nilla Bernardi Associate Social Affairs Officer, Secretariat for the Pemanent Forum of Indigenous Issues Tel: 212-963-8379	<a href="mailto:bernardi@un.org">bernardi@un.org</a>
DPA	Ms. Lone Jessen Gender Focal Point, Policy and Mediation Division Department of Political Affairs, United Nations, New York Tel: 212 963 6950	<a href="mailto:jessen@un.org">jessen@un.org</a>
	Ms. Elisabeth Scheper Policy and Mediation Division, Department of Political Affairs United Nations, New York Tel: 917 367 8396	<a href="mailto:scheper@un.org">scheper@un.org</a>
	Ms. Mansour Sadeghi Electoral Assistance Division Department of Political Affairs United Nations, New York Phone: 212 963 2580 <a href="http://www.un.org/depts/dpa/">www.un.org/depts/dpa/</a>	<a href="mailto:sadeghi@un.org">sadeghi@un.org</a>
DPI	Ms. Charlotte Scaddan Focal Point for Gender Issues, Strategic Communications, Division Tel: 917-367-9378	<a href="mailto:scaddan@un.org">scaddan@un.org</a>
DPKO	Ms. Clare Hutchinson Gender Affairs Officer, Best Practices Unit Tel: 917-367-0297	<a href="mailto:hutchinsonc@un.org">hutchinsonc@un.org</a>

ECA	Ms. Thokozile (Thoko) Ruzvidzo Director African Centre for Gender and Social Development, ECA Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Tel: 251-15-44.34.48	<a href="mailto:truzvidz@uneca.org">truzvidz@uneca.org</a>
ECE	Ms. Malinka Koparanova Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point, Office of the Executive Secretary Geneva, Switzerland Tel: 41-0-22 917 1698	<a href="mailto:Malinka.Koparanova@unece.org">Malinka.Koparanova@unece.org</a>
ECLAC	Ms. Ana Ferigra Stefanovic Associate Social Affairs Officer, Gender Affairs Division Tel: 56-2-210-221	<a href="mailto:Ana.FERIGRA-STEFANOVIC@cepal.org">Ana.FERIGRA-STEFANOVIC@cepal.org</a>
ESCAP	Ms. Nanda Krairiksh Chief, Social Development Division, ESCAP Tel: 66-2881505	<a href="mailto:krairiksh.unescap@un.org">krairiksh.unescap@un.org</a>
ESCWA	Ms. Mehrinaz El-Awadhy Chief of the ESCWA Center for Women Beirut, Lebanon Tel: 961-197-8650	<a href="mailto:elawady@un.org">elawady@un.org</a>
FAO	Ms. Marcela Villarreal Director FAO Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division Rome, Italy Tel: 39-06-570-55436	<a href="mailto:Marcela.Villarreal@fao.org">Marcela.Villarreal@fao.org</a>
IFAD	Ms. Maria Hartl Technical Advisor Gender and Social Equity International Fund for Agricultural Development Rome, Italy Tel: 39-06-5459-2455	<a href="mailto:m.hartl@ifad.org">m.hartl@ifad.org</a>
ILO	Ms Jane Hodges Director Bureau for Gender Equality International Labour Office Geneva, Switzerland Tel: 4122-799-7147	<a href="mailto:hodges@ilo.org">hodges@ilo.org</a>

IOM	Ms. Sylvia Lopez-Ekra Gender Coordinator Office of the Director General International Organization for Migration Geneva, Switzerland Tel: 41-22-717-9478	<a href="mailto:sekra@iom.int">sekra@iom.int</a>
ITC	Ms. Meg Jones Women and Trade Programme Manager Office of the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre Geneva, Switzerland Tel: 41-22-730-0166	<a href="mailto:jones@intracen.org">jones@intracen.org</a>
OHCHR	Ms. Gaynel Curry Gender and Women's Rights Advisor Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) New York Office Tel: 212-963-3923	<a href="mailto:curryg@un.org">curryg@un.org</a>
OIOS	Ms. Christa Lex Programme Management Officer, Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division United Nations, New York Tel: 212-963-4718	<a href="mailto:lex@un.org">lex@un.org</a>
UN-HABITAT	Ms. Cecilia Martinez Director of UN-HABITAT Office in New York	<a href="mailto:martinez@un.org">martinez@un.org</a>
	Ms. Yamina Djacta Deputy Director of the UN-HABITAT office in New York Tel: 212-963-5464	<a href="mailto:djacta@un.org">djacta@un.org</a>
	Ms. Hawa M. Diallo Human Settlements Officer UN-HABITAT New York Office Tel: 212-963-2718	<a href="mailto:diallo9@un.org">diallo9@un.org</a>
UNCTAD	Ms. Simonetta Zarrilli Senior Economic Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point Geneva, Switzerland Tel.: 41-0-22-917-5622	<a href="mailto:Simonetta.Zarrilli@unctad.org">Simonetta.Zarrilli@unctad.org</a>

UNDP	Mr. Timothy Scott Policy Advisor Gender and Environment Bureau of Development Policy UNDP New York 220 East 42nd Street Suite 2138 New York, NY 10017 1-646-781-4397	<a href="mailto:tim.scott@undp.org">tim.scott@undp.org</a>
	Ms. Raquel Lagunas Senior Advisor and Cluster Leader Institutional Development UNDP/Gender Team Bureau for Development Policy New York Tel: 646-781-4377	<a href="mailto:Raquel.lagunas@undp.org">Raquel.lagunas@undp.org</a>
	Ms. Patricia Fernandez-Pacheco UN Coordination Specialist MDG-F Secretariat 220 E42nd street office 2012 New York, NY USA 10017 Tel: 1-646-781-4256	<a href="mailto:patricia.fernandez-pacheco@undp.org">patricia.fernandez-pacheco@undp.org</a>
	Ms. Ngone Diop Policy Advisor/Poverty, Growth and MDGs Cluster Leader GT/BDP/UNDP New York Tel: 646-781-4365	<a href="mailto:Ngone.Diop@undp.org">Ngone.Diop@undp.org</a>
	Ms. Suki Beavers Pacific Regional-Human Rights Specialist UNDP New York Tel:	<a href="mailto:Suki.beavers@undp.org">Suki.beavers@undp.org</a>
UNEP	Ms. Maaïke Jansen Inter-Agency Officer Liaison Office in New York Tel: 212-963-8151	<a href="mailto:jansen@un.org">jansen@un.org</a>
UNESCO	Ms. Saniye Gülser Corat Director, Division for Gender Equality Office of the Director-General UNESCO, Paris, France Tel: 33-0-1-4568-1744	<a href="mailto:sg.corat@unesco.org">sg.corat@unesco.org</a>

UNFPA	Ms. Upala Devi GBV Technical Adviser United Nations Population Fund Tel: 212-297-4997	<a href="mailto:Devi@unfpa.org">Devi@unfpa.org</a>
	Ms. Gayle Nelson Technical Adviser, Gender United Nations Population Fund Tel: 1 212 297 5238	<a href="mailto:gnelson@unfpa.org">gnelson@unfpa.org</a>
UNHCR	Ms. Anne-Christine Eriksson Deputy Director UNHCR New York Phone:+1 212 963 5229	<a href="mailto:ERIKSSON@unhcr.org">ERIKSSON@unhcr.org</a>
	Mr. Sivanka Dhanapala Senior Policy Adviser	<a href="mailto:dhanapal@unhcr.org">dhanapal@unhcr.org</a>
	Mr. Christopher Roberts Intern, UNHCR	<a href="mailto:rasmussj@unhcr.org">rasmussj@unhcr.org</a>
UNICEF	Ms. Anju Malhotra Principal Adviser, Gender & Rights Unit; Gender, Rights and Civic Engagement Section in Division of Policy & Practice, UNICEF	<a href="mailto:anjumalhotra@unicef.org">anjumalhotra@unicef.org</a>
	Ms. Theresa Kilbana Senior Advisor on Child Protection Programme Division UNICEF	<a href="mailto:tkilbane@unicef.org">tkilbane@unicef.org</a>
	Ms. Noreen Khan Gender Specialist Gender and Rights Unit Policy and Practice UNICEF New York Tel: 1-212-326-7140	<a href="mailto:norkhan@unicef.org">norkhan@unicef.org</a>
UNIDIR	Ms. Christiane Agboton Johnson Deputy Director UNIDIR	<a href="mailto:cagboton-johnson@unog.ch">cagboton-johnson@unog.ch</a>
UNRWA	Amira Nitze Hassan Liaison Officer UNRWA Representative Office in New York Tel. + 1212 963 2254 Cell. +1917 859 5009 Fax. + 1917 367 1959	<a href="mailto:hassan94@un.org">hassan94@un.org</a>

UN-ACTION	Ms. Letitia Anderson Advocacy and Women's Rights Specialist United Nations, New York Tel: 212-963-0910	<a href="mailto:letitia.anderson@unwomen.org">letitia.anderson@unwomen.org</a>
	Mr. Innocent Balemba Zahinda Team Leader, Team of Experts: Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict	<a href="mailto:zahinda@un.org">zahinda@un.org</a>
UNIDO	Ms. Nilguen Tas Unit Chief Competitiveness, Upgrading and Partnership Unit (CUP); and Business, Investment and Technology Services Branch (BIT)	<a href="mailto:N.Tas@unido.org">N.Tas@unido.org</a>
UNISDR	Ms. Feng Min Kan Special Advisor of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction	<a href="mailto:kanf@un.org">kanf@un.org</a>
UN Secretariat	Ms. Daniela Simioni Social Affairs Officer United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office Tel: 917-367-2003	<a href="mailto:simioni@un.org">simioni@un.org</a>
UN-CEB	Ms. Phyllis Lee Secretary, High-Level Committee on Programmes / United Nations Chief Executives Board United Nations, New York Tel: 212-963-4832	<a href="mailto:leep@un.org">leep@un.org</a>
	Ms. Xenia von Lilien Programme Officer Secretariat of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) New York Tel: 212-963-4988	<a href="mailto:vonlilien@un.org">vonlilien@un.org</a>
UNSSC	Mr. Michele Ribotta E-learning Manager, United Nations System Staff College Turin, Italy Tel: 39-011-653-5907	<a href="mailto:michele.ribotta@unwomen.org">michele.ribotta@unwomen.org</a>



WFP	Ms. Isatou Jallow Chief Women, Children and Gender Policy Planning and Strategy Division Office of the Executive Director UN World Food Programme – Rome Tel: 39-06-6513-3642	<a href="mailto:isatou.jallow@wfp.org">isatou.jallow@wfp.org</a>
	Ms. Sofia Persson Consultant WFP New York	<a href="mailto:sofia.persson@wfp.org">sofia.persson@wfp.org</a>
WHO	Ms. Islene Araujo de Carvalho MD MPH Department of Gender, Women and Health World Health Organization Tel: 41-22-791-2436	<a href="mailto:araujodecarvalho@who.int">araujodecarvalho@who.int</a>
	Ms. Marijke Velzeboer-Saldedo Coordinator PAHO	<a href="mailto:velzebom@paho.org">velzebom@paho.org</a>
WIPO	Ms. Joan Connors Senior Gender Advisor	<a href="mailto:joan.connors@wipo.int">joan.connors@wipo.int</a>
Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC)	Ms. Sharon Taylor Information Management Officer Gender Focal Point Bonn, Germany Tel: 49-228-815-1003	<a href="mailto:STaylor@unfccc.int">STaylor@unfccc.int</a>
UNV	Ms. Daphne Casey Chief, Office in New York Partnerships and Communications Division United Nations Volunteers, New York Tel: 212-906-3638	<a href="mailto:daphne.casey@unvolunteers.org">daphne.casey@unvolunteers.org</a>
	Ms. Susanne Cearte Consultant UN Volunteers	<a href="mailto:sussane.gaerte@unvolunteers.org">sussane.gaerte@unvolunteers.org</a>
UN Women	Ms. Michele Bachelet Under Secretary-General and Executive Director UN Women	<a href="mailto:michele.bachelet@unwomen.org">michele.bachelet@unwomen.org</a>
	Ms. Lakshmi Puri Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director UN Women	<a href="mailto:lakshmi.puri@unwomen.org">lakshmi.puri@unwomen.org</a>

<p>Mr. Moez Doraid  Director, Coordination Division  UN Women  Daily News Building, 220 East 42nd St, Rm 1810  New York, NY 10017  Tel: 646-781-4547</p>	<p><a href="mailto:moez.doraid@unwomen.org">moez.doraid@unwomen.org</a></p>
<p>Ms. Maria Jose Alcala  Chief, Ending Violence against Women Section  UN Women  220 East 42nd Street, DN 17-39  New York, NY 10017  Tel: 646-781-4630</p>	<p><a href="mailto:maria.jose-alcala@unwomen.org">maria.jose-alcala@unwomen.org</a></p>
<p>Ms. Aldijana Susic  Campaign Manager  United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign  UNiTE to End Violence against Women</p>	<p><a href="mailto:aldijana.susic@unwomen.org">aldijana.susic@unwomen.org</a></p>
<p>Ms. Meryem Aslan  Chief United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence  against Women</p>	<p><a href="mailto:meryem.aslan@unwomen.org">meryem.aslan@unwomen.org</a></p>
<p>Ms. Aparna Mehrotra  Senior Adviser on Coordination and Focal Point  for Women in the UN System  Division for Coordination  UN Women  Tel: 646-781-4510</p>	<p><a href="mailto:aparna.mehrotra@unwomen.org">aparna.mehrotra@unwomen.org</a></p>
<p>Ms. Yassine Fall  Chief - Economic Empowerment Section  Un Women  Tel: 646-781-4437</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Yassine.fall@unwomen.org">Yassine.fall@unwomen.org</a></p>
<p>Ms. Begona Lasagabaster  Political Adviser  UN Women</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Begona.Lasagabaster@unwomen.org">Begona.Lasagabaster@unwomen.org</a></p>
<p>Ms. Christine Brautigam  Executive Secretary  Commission on the Status of Women  2 UN Plaza, DC 2, 12th floor, Room 1244  New York, NY 10017  Tel: +1 212 963-0535</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Christine.Brautigam@unwomen.org">Christine.Brautigam@unwomen.org</a></p>
<p>Ms. Jean D'Cunha  Global Migration Adviser, UN Women  866 UN Plaza, Suite 249, Room 24905,  New York City, NY 10017, USA  Tel: +1 917 484 8041</p>	<p><a href="mailto:jean.dcunha@unwomen.org">jean.dcunha@unwomen.org</a></p>

Ms. Clemencia Muñoz Tamayo Chief Training Center and Country Representative Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic Tel: 809-685-2111	<a href="mailto:clemencia.munoz-tamayo@unwomen.org">clemencia.munoz-tamayo@unwomen.org</a>
Ms. Nisreen Alami Policy Advisor Gender Responsive Budgeting UN Women 220 East 42nd St Room 17-06 New York, NY 10017 Tel.: +1 646 781 4643	<a href="mailto:nisreen.alami@unwomen.org">nisreen.alami@unwomen.org</a>
Ms. Nanette Braun Chief, Communications & Advocacy	<a href="mailto:nanette.braun@unwomen.org">nanette.braun@unwomen.org</a>
Mr. Johannes P. Lang Knowledge & Outreach Technology Analyst Civil Society Section	<a href="mailto:johannes.lang@unwomen.org">johannes.lang@unwomen.org</a>
Ms. Jaya Jiwatram Web Manager, UN Womenwatch Communications & Advocacy Branch	<a href="mailto:jaya.jiwatram@unwomen.org">jaya.jiwatram@unwomen.org</a>
Ms. Sarah Douglas Programme Manager Peace and Security Section	<a href="mailto:sarah.douglas@unwomen.org">sarah.douglas@unwomen.org</a>
Mr. Julien Pellaux Special Assistant to the Deputy Executive Director UN Women 220 East 42nd Street, Room 18-11 New York, NY 10017 Tel: +1-646-781-4733 Cell: +1-917-951-3084 Skype: pellaux-UN	<a href="mailto:julien.pellaux@unwomen.org">julien.pellaux@unwomen.org</a>
Ms. Anna Fälth Economics Specialist Economic Empowerment Section, Policy Division Tel: +1 646 781 4431	<a href="mailto:anna.falth@unwomen.org">anna.falth@unwomen.org</a>
Ms. Stefanie Franke Economic Analyst Economic Empowerment Section UN Women	<a href="mailto:stefanie.franke@unwomen.org">stefanie.franke@unwomen.org</a>

	Ms. Sharon Taylor Programme Specialist, UN Coordination Division UN Women Tel: 646-781-4532	<a href="mailto:sharon.j.taylor@unwomen.org">sharon.j.taylor@unwomen.org</a>
	Ms. Marilyn Dawson Programme Specialist, UN Coordination Division UN Women Tel: 646-781-4534	<a href="mailto:marilyn.dawson@unwomen.org">marilyn.dawson@unwomen.org</a>
	Ms. Dina Deligiorgis Knowledge Management Specialist (EVAW) UN Women	<a href="mailto:dina.deligiorgis@unwomen.org">dina.deligiorgis@unwomen.org</a>
	Ms. Anne Eyriagnoux Programme analyst (EVAW) UN Women	<a href="mailto:anne.eyriagnoux@unwomen.org">anne.eyriagnoux@unwomen.org</a>
	Ms. Patricia Cortes Programme Specialist, UN Coordination Division UN Women Tel: 646-781-4532	<a href="mailto:patricia.cortes@unwomen.org">patricia.cortes@unwomen.org</a>