



IN BRIEF



# ACHIEVING UN COHERENCE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Photo: © UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women/Phil Borges.

## What's the issue?

Leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the UN System on gender equality and the empowerment of women is key to support the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and to promote women's rights.

Implementing the 2030 Agenda recently endorsed by UN Member States depends on a fully integrated UN system equipped to deliver results for gender equality. It must act coherently to support internationally agreed norms and standards, convene partnerships, and provide technical expertise and capacity development. UN coherence enhances results and maximizes limited resources.

In 2006, the UN Chief Executives Board endorsed a UN system-wide policy committing to the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women. This encompasses coherent and coordinated implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy adopted by the ECOSOC.

To be fully effective, the UN must embrace shared accountability for gender equality results at all levels, including by clearly linking coordination efforts to their achievement.

## Our solutions

UN Women, itself a product of greater UN coherence, works across the three pillars of the UN system—development, human rights, and peace and security. It is thus strategically positioned to advance system-wide support for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In backing more effective UN coordination and gender mainstreaming, UN Women promotes a system “fit for purpose” to support countries in reaching the gender equality goal and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This entails four strategic outcomes:

**First, UN Women aims to enhance UN system coherence and mobilize joint action for gender equality and the empowerment of women at country, regional and global levels.** This involves supporting key inter-governmental processes, leading inter-agency coordination mechanisms, engaging in joint programmes and advocacy, and managing UN system-wide trust funds and campaigns.

**Second, to increase system-wide gender mainstreaming,** UN Women helps strengthen UN capacities related to gender equality, provides technical assistance and promotes knowledge sharing.

**Third, towards the system-wide application of accountability frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women,** UN Women leads implementation of the UN System Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP), and supports increased accountability of UN country teams within UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).

**Fourth, UN Women stands behind improved gender balance and the status of women in the UN system,** by monitoring and reporting on system-wide compliance with relevant intergovernmental mandates, and providing support to meet agreed standards.



## How we make a difference

### Globally:

**UNiTE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:** The UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign is led and managed by UN Women on behalf of the UN system. It aims to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. Since its launch in 2008, joint UN initiatives linked to the campaign have steadily grown in number and scope.

**GENDER EQUALITY MARKERS:** Towards better resource tracking for gender equality, over the 2014-2015 biennium, UN Women led several inter-agency capacity-building sessions on gender equality markers. As a result, some 18 UN entities are currently developing gender marker systems aligned with related standards and principles developed by the UN Development Group.

### In regions and countries:

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:** Mexico has spearheaded regional efforts to develop gender statistics for policy-making. Long-lasting collaboration among UN Women, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and key national institutions led to the establishment of a vast knowledge platform for producing gender statistics and applying them in policy-making. Innovation and knowledge-sharing on data are key to effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**TAJIKISTAN:** UN Women joined other UN entities and partners in the UN Gender Theme Group to ensure a more coordinated approach to the implementation of the country's international normative commitments, building on the recommendations from various UN human rights treaty bodies. This has led to greater focus on strengthening the national policy framework.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

- Member States rate gender equality among the top two areas in which the contribution from the UN development system is most significant.
- During the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, 33% of SG reports and 57% of resolutions referenced gender.
- 62 UN entities have submitted a report on implementation of the UN-SWAP. Between 2012 and 2014, the percentage of entities meeting or exceeding requirements increased from 30 per cent to 51 per cent. The share of entities that developed a gender policy rose from 30.9 per cent to 54.4 per cent, while the portion with mandatory gender training grew from 14.7 per cent to 35.3 per cent.
- Some 3,000 UN staff have completed the online course "I Know Gender" that was rolled out in 2014 as a result of inter-agency collaboration.
- Since the establishment of UN Women, the percentage of UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) featuring specific gender equality results at the outcome level has risen from 45 per cent to 61 per cent. Gender equality is the second most common focus of joint UN programmes (almost 90 have been implemented).
- To date, over 40 UNCTs have implemented performance indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender scorecard) in the context of the UNDAF.
- UN Women has fully endorsed the Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One, and ensures that all its country Strategic Notes are aligned with the UNDAF/One Programme.

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