

Structured Dialogue on Financing the UN Women Strategic Plan 2018-2021 – Executive Board Informal consultation on operationalizing the UNSG Funding Compact *May 9, 2019. UN Secretariat CR-12, New York* *Concept Note*

Background

The Executive Board has called on UN Women to “continue engaging in a structured dialogue [on financing UN Women] with Member States throughout the year.” In response, UN Women developed an engagement plan that includes a regular series of dialogues in 2019, with a broader range of partners, to strengthen the sustainable financing of the Entity and its approximate \$2 billion Strategic Plan 2018-2021. The engagement plan is comprised of three multi-stakeholder dialogue streams focused on: (1) implementing UN reform, particularly the Secretary-General’s funding compact; (2) return on investment¹; and (3) financing coordination.² This Concept Note addresses plans related to the first dialogue or consultation in the series, which is well-timed given the finalization of the Funding Compact, scheduled to be presented at the ECOSOC Operational Activities Segment in May 2019. The continuous, multi-stakeholder dialogue is in line with the harmonized approach mandated by Member States of New York-based Funds & Programmes.

Objectives

The overall objective of the multi-stakeholder consultation is to engage with Member States and private sector partners, including National Committees, to explore options and opportunities to adequately finance UN Women mandate and current Strategic Plan. In alignment with the UN Funding Compact, and the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, this includes:

1. Protect and grow unrestricted regular resources;
2. Increase flexible and predictable earmarked funds aligned to Strategic Plan outcome areas, including through thematic funds;
3. Promote system wide coordination through pooled inter-agency financing arrangements;
4. Broaden and diversify UN Women’s financing base, including through emerging partners and the private sector; and
5. Leverage the year 2020 as a pivotal moment for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, following UN Women’s 10th anniversary since its creation and the 10 year milestone to the SDGs, enhanced by Beijing +25 and the 20th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325.

¹ The dialogue on return on investment will emphasize results achieved by UN Women and its partners, aligned to the Executive Board annual session (June 2019).

² The dialogue on financing coordination is the formal Executive Board mandated Structured Dialogue on Financing, which will focus on flexible and predictable resources, aligned to Strategic Plan outcome-level results, derived from a broad funding base that is inclusive of both the public and private sector and explores new financing mechanisms (Sep. 2019).

Agenda and Session Topics

Session No.	Time	Session Topic
1	10:00 – 10:10	Welcome and objectives of the informal consultation
2	10:10 – 10:30	The context of Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEWE), and UN Women's unique role and capacity to harness the historic opportunity to get to Planet 50:50 by 2030
3	10:30 – 11:15	Topic A: Accelerating impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Women's results to date • Shaping and driving towards achieving the SDGs
4	11:15 – 12:00	Topic B: Financing impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan integrated budget, 2018-21 • Revenue trends and gaps • Resource Mobilization Strategy, with a focus on deepening and broadening resource partnerships, including traditional and emerging government partners, the private sector, individual giving, and exploratory innovative financial mechanisms
5	12:00 – 12:45	Topic C: Making UN Women fit for purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Women 2.0: change management initiative • Leveraging the UN Reform and inter-agency financing arrangements
6	12:45 – 12:55	Conclusions
7	12:55 – 13:00	Close