

## **Common Chapter of UN-Women, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA's Strategic Plans Background Document**

### **1. Introduction**

In its *decision 2020/3*, the Executive Board of UN-Women “Requests that UN-Women, while taking into account its own priorities, accelerate its efforts to implement the common chapter, together with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, including by developing the necessary tracking framework within the respective integrated results and resources frameworks of their current strategic plans, following the recommendations of the joint report on the evaluability assessment of the common chapter dated 30 March 2020 and in the context of the repositioning of the United Nations development system, as laid out in General Assembly resolution 72/279, and also requests that UN-Women present a joint update on progress to the Executive Board at the second regular session 2020.”

In response to *decision 2020/3*, the four agencies working on the Common Chapter will be hosting a joint-informal briefing to the Executive Boards on August 26, 2020. Additionally, in follow-up discussions with the President of the Executive Board, UN-Women was requested to provide a written update on the implementation of the Decision in the form of a brief background document ahead of the second regular session to be held on 15-16 September 2020.

### **2. Update on implementation of Decision 2020/3**

Since the adoption of their respective Strategic Plans, UN-Women, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA have strengthened their collaboration under key areas of collaborative advantages. This is shown by an ever-increasing number of joint programmes, for which common objectives on gender equality has been an important driver. The four agencies have shown key results of their increased collaboration, along with partnerships with the broader UN system, in the [joint-annex to their respective 2019 Annual Reports](#).

The year 2020 has been pivotal in many aspects. While the United Nations system, through the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, aims to accelerate efforts towards the 2030 Agenda, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which began convulsing the world in the early months of 2020, has exacerbated existing inequalities and vulnerabilities within and between countries.

The developments related to COVID-19 have further illustrated the need for collaborative efforts to address the complex and interconnected development challenges the world is facing today. In this context, UN-Women works in close collaboration with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, and the broader UN system, to ensure that the needs of women and girls are fully reflected in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Examples of extensive inter-agency engagement on gender equality and the empowerment of women include Issue-based Coalitions and joint UN efforts established

or repurposed to respond to COVID-19. Under the aegis of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), the Women Count platform has become the “go-to” data hub on gender equality by presenting data from UN agencies, including ILO, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP, WHO and others, to inform gender-responsive response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The dashboard went live at the Recover Better Together Action Forum on 26 June. In addition, UN-Women supported all 56 proposals for the first call for proposals of the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund, including by reviewing proposals and providing guidance and recommendations on the use of gender markers and incorporating stronger gender analysis.<sup>1</sup>

Since the annual sessions of their respective Executive Boards, the four agencies have met and discussed the most relevant approach to developing a tracking framework to the Common Chapter of the current Strategic Plans. A first iteration was developed by bringing key elements from “within the respective integrated results and resources frameworks of their current strategic plans” and presents a cohesive framework that highlights agencies’ joint and complementary efforts. The four agencies will present the tracking framework to their Executive Boards at the joint informal on 26 August 2020.

Following-up on the findings of the Mid-term review of its Strategic Plan, UN-Women will seek to better leverage partners within the United Nations system and beyond in order to realize its mandate and take results on gender equality and women’s empowerment to scale. In the spirit of the UN reforms and as UN-Women embarks on the development of its new Strategic Plan, the entity is currently closely coordinating with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF in order to harmonize processes and approaches to ensure that the sum of our collective efforts yields transformative results on the ground.

---

<sup>1</sup> Update on UN-Women’s response to COVID-19, Background Paper, 2020