

**Talking points for Ms. Puri
Expert Group Meeting
2015 and 2016 ECOSOC Cycles
UN Women Conference Room
4-5 December 2014**

Key Issues: This session will focus on the broad range of critical policy issues that need to be taken into account in supporting the transition to and implementation of the SDGs. It will explore what kind of changes and adaptations in existing policy frameworks would be needed to support the implementation of an SDG-based development agenda. In particular, the session will explore tools and approaches that would account for the complex inter-linkages, synergies, spill-overs and trade-offs between different policy choices underpinning the delivery of the SDGs, while ensuring mutually reinforcing and coherent policy outcomes at the global, regional, national and local levels.

- The post-2015 development agenda needs to foster transformation in gender relations by addressing the structural causes of gender inequality. This means a framework that not only includes a strong stand-alone goal but one that addresses gender equality and women's human rights as a transversal issue in all other goals through gender-sensitive targets and indicators. As has been stated by different Member States during the deliberations of this Open Working Group, there can be no poverty eradication without resolving women's – half the world's – poverty. We cannot resolve maternal mortality without fully considering sexual and reproductive health and rights. We cannot ensure water and energy for all without taking account of women's unpaid care work. We cannot develop sustainable economic models and inclusive institutions without the full and equal participation and leadership of women.
- Looking ahead, the future post-2015 framework must have a strong grounding in human rights. A transformative approach based on human rights would ensure that goals, targets and indicators are based on principles of equality and non-discrimination, are complementary and coherent so that gains in one area do not come at the cost of progress in another.
- An integrated and universal agenda requires that we effectively link social, economic and environmental policies, for better results. Policies must address the sectoral interlinkages between the three dimensions of sustainable development and move from a sectoral/silo approach to multi-sector and multi-stakeholder working methods. This will require a stronger focus on collaboration and coherence across government ministries – as well as for UN system support. Policy-makers will have to address trade-offs and tensions across the three dimensions to ensure the complementarity of policies and programmes. All policy design, planning, budgeting and monitoring processes should be informed by gender analysis with the full and equal participation of women and engagement of civil society. We cannot achieve the proposed

goals if we do not directly and pro-actively address gender inequalities through such policies in all countries.

- The agenda must challenge the status quo and change the structures that perpetuate inequalities, poverty, vulnerability and environmental degradation, namely – the unequal distribution of power, resources and opportunities in formal and informal institutions, discriminatory social norms, practices and policies at all levels. Ensuring a global economic architecture that promotes - rather than undermines - human rights and substantive equality for women and girls, is perhaps the most fundamental question for implementing the post-2015 agenda. This includes ensuring a fair and equitable international trade and financial regime, adequate and predictable financing for development and access to technology and knowledge.
- Effective implementation of measures to achieve this goal requires gender-responsive accountability systems that enable women to hold government and other actors, including the private sector and philanthropic institutions, answerable for their commitments and actions, and to shape public policy, prevent abuses of their rights, or demand redress where abuses occur.
- A concerted effort is also needed to address the underinvestment in gender equality. Transparent resource allocation across all sectors, including tools such as gender-responsive budgeting, freedom of information arrangements to facilitate women’s review of public decisions and spending patterns will be invaluable for effective accountability to women and girls.
- The calls by the High-level Panel for a ‘data revolution’ – thus must become a gender data revolution to rectify years of underinvestment in the production of gender statistics, which makes the choice of relevant indicators for monitoring a difficult process. Many areas that are of critical importance such as time use statistics or violence against women indicators are still not produced regularly by countries. This highlights another key point: unlike the MDGs, the choice of targets and indicators for the SDGs cannot simply be driven by data availability. Rather, the new framework should focus on what we value. Strategic issues for reducing gender inequality and enhancing women’s rights must drive the collection, analysis and use of new and existing data. This means that investment in statistical capacity is needed and a firm resolve to scale-up substantially the resources devoted to the production of gender statistics is absolutely necessary.