

Interagency Gender and Water Task Force Terms of Reference

Purpose: Using the gender perspective developed at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), the Task Force aims to promote gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to water and sanitation and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the global, regional, national, local and utility levels. The activities of this Task Force should reflect a long-term strategy and ongoing process of gender mainstreaming that can inform the creation and implementation of national planning documents (e.g., Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers).

1. Integrate the gender perspective in the formulation of strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to water and sanitation.
2. Incorporate the gender perspective (one of the cross-cutting issues) into the water and sanitation thematic clusters of the first cycle (2004-2005) of the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD):
 - Provide guidance to the regional dialogues on how to incorporate the gender perspective into water and sanitation clusters for the first cycle of the CSD;
 - Encourage the organization of sessions with regional commissions on gender and water/sanitation;
 - Use results of dialogues to identify needs and priorities for each region and in selected countries (as appropriate);
 - Recommend that the priorities identified are reflected in reporting to CSD-12 and background documents prepared by the CSD secretariat.
3. Provide programme support for the gender component of the International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life', 2005-2015.
4. Provide inputs to the World Water Assessment Programme so that the next edition of *World Water Development Report* (2006) incorporates gender into indicators and policy recommendations.
5. Organize side events and updated 'briefing notes' on gender and water to coincide with the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Sustainable Development.
6. Provide support to production of the second edition of the *Gender and Water Development Report* to focus on implementation [first edition produced in 2003 by Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) focussed on policies].
7. Test relevant, available training, advocacy and educational materials in selected UN country offices, programmes and projects. For example, the *Gender and Water Resource Guide: Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management* developed by UNDP and GWA could be used in mainstreaming gender in country projects and programmes by different agencies. Moreover, gender guidelines could be applied to water and sanitation aspects (both supply and demand) of the Common Country Assessments, UN Development Assistance Frameworks and country reports on Millennium Development Goals.
8. Utilize existing literature and work with relevant organizations and civil society to develop demonstrations of good practice in securing sustainable and equitable access to water supply and sanitation, with a special emphasis on the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups. Document case studies that show the impact of gender on project success for future replication, and that can inform guidelines for gender mainstreaming in water supply and sanitation projects and programmes.
9. Draw on current research on the economic value of water as an input to women's productive activities, and the effect of improved access to water on poverty alleviation among women in rural and urban areas. The economic returns should demonstrate improved health, hygiene and sanitation of the community, as well as increased food security, and be linked to the first MDG of poverty alleviation. Income-generating opportunities may also be available in the provision of water and sanitation services, especially for women.
10. Encourage UN water experts and gender specialists and networks to work together at the national level to improve programmes to achieve the MDGs and JPOI.