

Inter-Agency Network on
Women and Gender Equality
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Gender mainstreaming in the CCA/UNDAF process

Task Manager: UNIFEM

(i) Background

The Taskforce on Gender Mainstreaming in the CCA/UNDAF process was established by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) to address an increasing demand by UN country teams for expertise and technical advice on how to systematically and effectively address gender issues in UN coordination processes at the field level.

The Taskforce on Gender Mainstreaming in the CCA/UNDAF is chaired by UNIFEM and acts as a technical working group to bring together critical thinking on the CCA/UNDAF process from a gender perspective and to create a common understanding of gender mainstreaming. Its members include representatives from DAW, OSAGI, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNIFEM. In 2001, the Taskforce was expanded to include representatives from the World Bank and the UN Statistical Division. As per its terms of reference, the Taskforce's main objective is the development of a common and coherent UN agency approach to gender mainstreaming in the CCA/UNDAF process.

(ii) Progress Report: 2002

The Taskforce members focused in 2002 on:

Finalization of desk review

In 2001, the Taskforce commissioned an external consultant to undertake a desk review of CCAs and UNDAFs in fifteen countries (Barbados, China, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Yemen and Zimbabwe). The review's objective was to assess the extent to which gender perspectives had been taken into account in both final documents and processes. The consultant started work on the desk review in December 2001. The first draft of the review was completed in August 2002 and shared with Taskforce members.

The draft report has been revised to reflect all Taskforce members' comments and will be circulated to the Taskforce for final comments at its next meeting (scheduled for during the IANWGE). The Report's main findings will be presented at the IANWGE Annual Meeting.

Discussion of follow-up strategy to Desk Review

At the Taskforce's last meeting, members emphasized that the findings of the Review should be discussed at the highest inter-agency level at HQ (UNDG); it was proposed that the chair of the UNDG (UNDP) circulate the Review (or executive summary) to all Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams; it was also suggested that the Chair of the Task Force request to present the main findings of the Review to the UNDG Programme Group.

Taskforce members agreed that despite some notable exceptions the Review re-confirmed that at the Resident Coordinator level strong and systematic commitment to gender mainstreaming was still weak. Members identified an urgent need to better define responsibilities for gender accountability (at HQ and country level) and institutionalize strong gender accountability mechanisms and monitoring tools – it was emphasized that strategies should build on existing tools (and not “reinvent the wheel”) as well as explore collaboration with other partners,

especially the World Bank. At the global level, it was suggested that the Secretary-General's Report on Gender Mainstreaming should be used more strategically to highlight gaps in gender mainstreaming and missed opportunities. Members also stressed the need to explore "new" opportunities (e.g. re-emerging focus on rights-based approach in UN Reform and MDGs) and agreed that joint efforts need to capitalize and build upon existing good practices.

(iii) Future Activities and Directions

The members of the Taskforce decided to reconvene at the beginning of 2003 to discuss concrete steps for follow-up to the Desk Review and discuss the Taskforce's terms of reference for 2003. There was general agreement that the work of the Taskforce should focus on strengthening accountability mechanisms for gender mainstreaming in inter-agency coordination mechanisms.