

Aide Mémoire

Workshop of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Gender Mainstreaming in programme reporting and monitoring 25 February 2004

Background

The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANGWE) meets annually to share and exchange experiences on strengthening gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system. One of the activities of the IANGWE is a workshop that focuses specifically on practical approaches to gender mainstreaming in the UN system.

At its second session in February 2003, the Network decided to focus on gender mainstreaming in programme reporting and monitoring at its third session in 2004. Gender mainstreaming in programme reporting and monitoring is of critical importance particularly within the context of results-based budgeting (RBB) and results-based management (RBM) currently being undertaken by the United Nations system.

The focus of the Workshop is also very timely as it provides a good opportunity to contribute to the review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2 to be considered by ECOSOC at its coordination segment in 2004.

The agreed conclusions on “Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system” provide specific guidance on gender mainstreaming in the UN system. Although progress has been made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes in the UN system, challenges and gaps still remain.

Overall objectives

The Workshop aims to identify achievements, good practices, gaps, accountability and challenges in programme reporting and monitoring. One of the objectives of the Workshop is to provide a forum for entities of the UN system, which have adopted new or revised gender equality policies and strategies over the last 2-3 years, to share experiences on how they have incorporated reporting and monitoring as an integral part of their policy/strategy (or are planning to do so) and to provide information on implementation. Entities would be expected to address objectives, rationales, challenges and approaches of their work in this specific area.

Plenary presentation and discussions

High-level staff members from within the UN system will outline the main principles and approaches in programme reporting and monitoring. An interactive dialogue will follow presentations.

In working groups, participants will share experiences on programme reporting and monitoring processes, including innovative approaches, methodologies, good practices and constraints. Follow-up opportunities for strengthening gender perspectives in programme reporting and monitoring will also be examined.

Format

The dialogue and exchange will take place in the form of presentations and discussion in plenary in both the morning and afternoon sessions, followed by discussion in smaller working groups. Presentations will be limited to 15-20 minutes to allow time for discussion. The moderator will also chair the workshop. Facilitators will guide the working group sessions. Rapporteurs will be selected from each working group to report back to the plenary. The conclusion of the workshop and adoption of recommendations will be chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

Outcome

The findings and recommendations of the Workshop will be included in the report of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) for follow-up action by members of the IANWGE. The report will also be conveyed to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as a background document, time permitting.