

**UN Inter-Agency Network on
Women and Gender Equality
New York, 22-25 February 2005**

**IANWGE/2005/6
Fourth session**

Gender Mainstreaming in the CCA/UNDAF Process

Task Manager: UNIFEM

**Report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender Mainstreaming in the
CCA/UNDAF Process
for the
Meeting of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality
New York, 22-25 February 2005**

(i) Background

The Task Force on Gender Mainstreaming in the CCA/UNDAF process was established in 2001 by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE). The Taskforce acts as a technical working group to bring together critical thinking on and a common approach to mainstreaming gender in the CCA/UNDAF and propose strategies for effectively addressing gender issues in UN coordination processes. Chaired by UNIFEM, its members include representatives from DAW, UNDP, UNFPA, and UNICEF.

(ii) Progress Report: 2004

In 2004 the Taskforce members focused on:

Development of a Resource Guide for Gender Theme Groups

In January 2004 work on the development of a Resource Guide to help strengthen the capacity of UN Gender Theme Groups began. This Resource Guide builds on the model of the Resource Guide for Theme Groups Working Together on HIV/AIDS developed by UNAIDS.

A consultant was recruited to develop the Resource Guide that provides practical guidance for UN Theme Groups working on gender equality, based on experience of such groups to date. Outreach to the Resident Coordinator system worldwide to elicit information was undertaken and feedback was received from 28 Gender Theme Groups. The Resource Guide, which was released in January 2005, focuses on how to more effectively collaborate and coordinate activities to mainstream gender equality in key coordination mechanisms such as CCA/UNDAF exercises, MDG monitoring and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

The Resource Guide was featured at a Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP on 20 January 2005 where it was welcomed by Member States and hailed as a good practice in inter-agency collaboration. In addition, it is in the process of being distributed to all UN Country Teams (UNCTs) with the support of the UN Development Group Office and being posted on the respective Taskforce member's websites for wider dissemination.

Strengthening Gender Equality in the TCPR Resolution

From October through December 2004, when the General Assembly was in session, the Task Force set out to bolster the gender section of the upcoming Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (TCPR) resolution.

The Task Force held a briefing for EU and JUSCANZ Member States (these include European Member States as well as Japan, United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) on *Strengthening Gender Equality in the TCPR* in late October 2004. The briefing was welcomed by Member States.

Recommendations to strengthen gender equality in the TCPR were made by the Taskforce. Members subsequently met one-on-one with a number of additional Member States to further promote and disseminate the suggested language, including through a consultation organized by UNICEF.

The result of the Taskforce's advocacy is reflected in the stronger and more results oriented language adopted in the TCPR resolution (see Annex II) which calls for greater accountability of the Resident Coordinator system in integrating gender equality in its work and reporting.

(iii) Future Activities and Directions

The Taskforce is in the process of developing a work plan for 2005 which broadly focuses on the follow-up to the Resource Guide for Gender Theme Group i.e. to further enhance support on gender equality to UNCTs and thus operationalize some of the recommendations contained in the Gender section of the TCPR resolution.

At the upcoming 4th annual meeting of the IANWGE, Taskforce members would like to revisit the terms of reference (TOR), name and composition of the Taskforce as it is felt that the scope of its work has become broader than its current name and TOR indicate. A proposal is being drafted for discussion at the annual meeting.

Annex I

Suggested language for the Gender section of the General Assembly Resolution on Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 and resolution 2004/4 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

1. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system to appoint gender specialists at country, regional and global levels who have the seniority, capacity and time to effectively support gender mainstreaming in country level activities in policy, programme and coordination mechanisms;

2. *Requests* the United Nations system to establish a United Nations Development Group Task Force in collaboration with the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to develop performance indicators to operationalize, strengthen and monitor the effectiveness of United Nations Country Teams to mainstream gender in budgets, policies, programme and coordination mechanisms and *calls on* the United Nations Development Group Executive Committee to launch an annual review of the United Nations Country Teams' performance in supporting countries to fulfil their gender equality commitments;

3. *Also requests* the United Nations system to strengthen gender theme groups in all United Nations Country Teams in order to ensure adequate inter-agency collaboration and support to United Nations Country Teams' efforts particularly by ensuring that membership of gender theme groups includes at least one senior staff member who participates in the Heads of Agency meetings and that adequate resources are allocated for their effective functioning from regular and earmarked funds;

4. *Urges* the Resident Coordinator system to ensure that national mechanisms on promotion of gender equality and women's human rights networks are included in consultative and quality assurance processes related to the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework, Millennium Development Goals, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, and other coordination mechanisms such as HIV/AIDS and humanitarian;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General to report back to the General Assembly on achievements and gaps in the United Nations Country Teams' performance on gender mainstreaming at the time of the next Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

Annex II

Excerpted from A/C.2/59/L.63 of 14 December 2004

Fifty-ninth session

Second Committee

Agenda item 90 (b)

**Operational activities for development: triennial
comprehensive policy review of operational activities
for development of the United Nations system**

**Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee,
Mr. Azanaw Tadesse Abreha (Ethiopia), on the basis of informal consultations
held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.28**

Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

X. Gender

86. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream gender and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with the national development strategies;

87. *Urges* all organizations of the system to collaborate with the resident coordinator system to provide gender specialist resources in support of gender mainstreaming in country-level activities in all sectors where they operate, working closely with relevant national counterparts in generating the gender disaggregated, quantitative and qualitative information required to produce better analysis of gender-related issues of development;

88. *Requests* all entities of the United Nations system to enhance the effectiveness of gender specialist resources, gender focal points and gender theme groups, by establishing clear mandates; by ensuring adequate training, access to information and to adequate and stable resources; and by increasing the support and participation of senior staff;

89. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system to avail itself of the technical experience of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on gender issues;

90. *Encourages* the continuing efforts to achieve gender balance in appointments within the United Nations system at the headquarters and country levels in positions that affect operational activities, including resident coordinator appointments, with due regard to representation of women from developing countries and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographic representation;

91. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the annual report on resident coordinators includes adequate and concise information on progress on the above;