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**Substantive session of 2004**
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Items of the provisional agenda

**4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies
 and other bodies of the United Nations system**
 **(a) Review and appraisal of the system-wide implementation of the
  Council's agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender
  perspective into all policies and programmes of the United
  Nations system**

**7. Coordination, programme and other questions**
 **(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and
  programmes in the United Nations system**

**14. Social and human rights questions**
 **(a) Advancement of women**

# The work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to enhance capacities and promote coherence on gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations system

## Note by the Secretariat

*Summary*

This paper was prepared to provide information on the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to facilitate the promotion of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system following the adoption of the Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system. It describes the processes that have been utilized as well as the achievements and notes the challenges to be met to ensure continued attention to gender perspectives throughout the work of the United Nations system.

Contents

## I.    Introduction

1.      The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) is an active partner in the promotion and realization of gender equality. It is the only mechanism within the United Nations system that promotes collaboration, coordination and regular exchange of information on gender mainstreaming. The Network also focuses on strengthening capacities for gender mainstreaming within the entities of the UN system. It supports the programmatic and the country-level work of all the UN entities by promoting coherence in gender mainstreaming approaches and methodologies. The Network also provides support to intergovernmental processes, particularly major UN global conferences and summits.

2.      The Network is chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women who conveys the results of the Inter-Agency's work to the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as to all Heads of UN entities.

3.      Inter-agency work on the advancement of women and gender equality started with the first World Conference on Women in Mexico in 1975, with the formation of the inter-agency Ad Hoc Group on the Advancement of Women. The group initially focused on sharing information on the work of each entity to promote women's advancement. The group also coordinated inputs to various UN global conferences and summits in order to highlight key issues affecting women.

4.      In 1996, as a follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, emphasis was placed on mainstreaming gender perspectives in the activities of the United Nations system in response to the Beijing Platform of Action. The Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality (IACWGE) was one of two standing committees of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) established by the Secretary-General on a permanent basis, along with a committee on sustainable development.

5.      With the adoption of ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, the role of the inter-agency collaboration became more clearly defined. The work of IACWGE focused on more analytical and methodological approaches to gender mainstreaming. The change also marked a shift away from reporting on the work of the various entities to identifying emerging gender issues of concern to the entire UN system.

6.      IACWGE was instrumental in securing high-level support for gender mainstreaming in the UN system. In 1999, it submitted a draft statement for adoption by the ACC that emphasized the commitment of Executive Heads of entities of the United Nations system to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the ECOSOC agreed conclusions on gender mainstreaming. The statement was adopted by the ACC and submitted for information to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".[1]

7.      In 2001, the ACC became the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) following a review of its role and the functioning of its subsidiary machinery. With the dismantling of the existing standing committees of the ACC, the IACWGE became the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and its reporting procedures changed. The Network now reports to the CEB through the High-level Committee for Programme (HLCP) and the High-level Committee for Management (HLCM).

8.      The Network has continued to expand, increasingly becoming an important forum for learning. Over the past ten years membership has increased from 32 to 60 members, representing 25 entities,

including agencies, funds and programmes, departments of the UN Secretariat, including DPKO, DPA, DDA, DPI and OIOS and several divisions in DESA.

9. The Network has adopted methods of work that maximize the participation of all members in a cost-effective way. The Network holds its annual four-day meeting late in February to facilitate attendance at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in the subsequent two weeks. Activities of the Network are carried out largely through task forces focused on specific themes (See Annex for an overview of the work of the task forces). All task forces derive their mandates from the Network and provide reports to the Network during the annual meetings. To maximize the participation of members, the task forces communicate electronically, including facilitating online thematic discussions. Currently, task forces focus on gender mainstreaming in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); information and communication technologies (ICTs); peace and security; the CCA and UNDAFs; trade; water; and monitoring, evaluation, and performance reporting.

10. The Network recognizes that collaboration outside the UN is integral to the development of its work. Joint workshops organized with the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality between 1997 and 2003 have provided key opportunities for discussions at policy and operational levels on a range of topics, such as on gender mainstreaming (Geneva, 1997); a rights-based approach to gender equality and advancement of women (Rome, 1998); women's empowerment and human security (Bangkok, 1999); governance, poverty reduction and gender equality (Vienna, 2001); and gender and post-conflict reconstruction (Paris, 2003). Detailed reports of these meetings, including communiqués on action points, have been widely distributed and are available online on the IANWGE website.[2] Participants included gender specialists and experts from the IANWGE and OECD/DAC Network, external experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations.

## II. Strengthening capacities for gender mainstreaming in the UN system

11. The five-year reviews of UN global conferences and summits,[3] including the outcome of the twenty-third session of the General Assembly, as well as the Millennium Summit, have all underscored that the achievement of gender equality is critical to development. These processes have further noted that the promotion of gender equality should be addressed at all levels in all sectors and at the global, regional and country levels. The reviews of implementation of conference outcomes, while noting progress, have also identified gaps, challenges and emerging issues.

12. The Network holds workshops to enhance competencies on gender mainstreaming during its annual meeting. These workshops have focused on (i) approaches and methodologies for gender mainstreaming (2001); (ii) training and capacity-building for gender mainstreaming (2002); (iii) incorporating a gender perspective into the preparations of and follow-up to global conferences (2003); and (iv) gender mainstreaming in programme reporting and monitoring (2004). As a result of these workshops, the Network members have gained increased capacity to, inter alia, promote the creation of strategic alliances for gender mainstreaming; develop and apply tools for corporate reviews of gender mainstreaming; develop more effective evaluation of outcomes and impacts of gender mainstreaming; reinforce collaborative efforts and arrangements at the field level; participate effectively in preparatory processes for global reviews; utilize the Millennium Declaration and MDGs as an overall framework for promoting gender equality; enhance and expand partnerships with the civil society and advocate for accountability for gender mainstreaming.

13. The development of tools to support gender mainstreaming is an integral part of the activities of the Network. In order to demonstrate how the gender mainstreaming strategy can be effectively undertaken, a task force, managed by UNDP and UNIFEM in 1999, compiled a set of good practices in

gender mainstreaming based on a common set of criteria for integrating gender perspectives in various sectors. Seventy-nine inter-agency good practices were presented on the inter-agency website.[4]

14.     One of the continuing challenges is measuring the impact of interventions related to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. This is related to the extent to which appropriate gender-sensitive indicators can be identified. To map the use of indicators relevant to gender equality currently in use in the UN system, the Network undertook a two-year survey on tools and indicators for gender impact analysis, monitoring and evaluation, managed by ECLAC and the Statistical Division of DESA.[5] The survey highlighted tools on statistics and indicators offered by UN entities; main publications containing gender indicators; UN statistical databases with gender indicators; and UN entities that calculate and/or disseminate gender indicators by main areas of interest, and source of information and primary sources of data, by country and by year. This survey remains a very useful reference on indicators for assessing impact on gender equality. It also demonstrates the continuing need to refine indicators in order to more effectively measure progress towards gender equality through the implementation of gender mainstreaming.

15.     Another focus of the Network has been the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistant Framework (UNDAF), through a task force led by UNIFEM. The CCA and UNDAF are central instruments of the United Nations system at country level. In 2000, the task force, collaborating with the UN Resident Coordinator system, undertook a desk review of selected CCA/UNDAF documents to assess the integration of gender perspectives; and provided inputs to the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) on incorporation of gender perspectives in guidelines on the development of CCA/UNDAFs. Alongside other stakeholders, especially at the country level, the task force has contributed to the increased attention to gender issues now evident in CCA/UNDAF documents.[6]

16.     Consistent with the Beijing Platform of Action and the ECOSOC agreed conclusions on gender mainstreaming (1997/2), many UN entities have identified gender focal points or established units whose primary task is to advocate for the promotion of gender equality through the development and implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies. Taking into account the ECOSOC agreed conclusions, the Network, through a task force managed by UNFPA, undertook a system-wide study that examined the profiles, functions, organizational structures and management of gender focal points. The study found, inter alia, that the scope of work, the level of deployment and the capacities of the focal points and units vary widely. In some cases gender focal points were the most junior female staff, held temporary contracts and had no specific expertise on gender mainstreaming. The study resulted in a report that identified ways to improve the gender focal point system in the United Nations and underscored that accountability for gender mainstreaming must remain with senior managers.[7] Designated gender focal points should be regular staff at a senior level, equipped with human and financial resources, as well as the training where applicable, to enable them to meet or effectively support gender mainstreaming.

17.     A Task force on Gender Mainstreaming in Programme Budget Processes undertook in depth and interactive case studies of fourteen UN entities. The task manager was DESA/DAW.[8] Efforts were made to increase collaboration between programme managers, budget staff and gender specialists in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of programme budgets. The work of the task force led to increased attention to gender perspectives in recent budget documents across the system.

18.     Consistent with the Millennium Declaration, which resolved "to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable" (para 20), the Network has been actively engaged with other stakeholders to ensure the integration of gender perspectives in all the Millennium Development Goals. In November 2003, a workshop on gender equality and the MDGs was organized jointly with UNDP and the

World Bank, managers of the task force on gender and MDGs. The workshop, which brought together more than one hundred participants from governments, civil society and the UN system, aimed to identify examples of how gender issues should be integrated into MDG policies and interventions; to identify processes and tools that will encourage greater accountability for addressing gender issues in MDG implementation strategies; and to promote coordination among development agencies in their efforts to integrate gender issues into the MDGs. An online discussion preceded the workshop. The workshop recommended concrete actions for follow-up around three clusters, namely engendering national planning processes, mobilizing grass-roots support and gender-sensitive monitoring.

## III.    Support to intergovernmental processes

19.    The Inter-Agency Network also contributes significantly to intergovernmental processes, including by providing gender-specific technical inputs to preparatory processes for meetings of intergovernmental bodies or  UN global conferences and summits. A comparative advantage of the Network is its ability to harmonize UN system-wide inputs related to gender equality through regular consultation among members. The Network highlights emerging issues that have the potential to impact on progress towards gender equality and identifies opportunities for action by the UN system.

20.    The frame of reference for the work of the Network in support of the intergovernmental process is the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document from the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. During intergovernmental meetings, the Network organizes side events to facilitate dialogue between Member States, civil society and the UN system on the extent to which gender perspectives are integrated in all sectors of development.

21.    A Day of Dialogue on Gender and Financing for Development was organized  in February 2002 by a task force led by DESA/OSAGI and DESA/DAW in preparation for the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, March 2002). An analysis of gender perspectives on the different aspects of financing for development and an overview of existing intergovernmental mandates on gender equality and financing for development issues were provided. This contributed to greater recognition of the need for the International Conference to address the internationally agreed commitments on gender equality, poverty eradication and sustainable development, in an integrated and holistic manner. The important linkages between the gender dimensions of national and international economic development and the mobilization of resources were acknowledged. The Monterrey Consensus gives some explicit attention to gender issues that create an opportunity for follow-up and further development.

22.    In preparation for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), a task force on gender and ICTs, managed by ITU, FAO and UNESCO, worked in collaboration with Member States and civil society to highlight the differential impact of ICTs on men and women and the manner in which gender issues impact on ICTs, focusing on policy and regulatory issues. The Network worked closely with the WSIS Gender Caucus to coordinate the inclusion of gender issues in the preparatory processes of WSIS. The task force participated in the preparatory meetings in Bamako, Geneva, Bucharest, Tokyo, Bavaro, Punta Can/Santo Domingo, Beirut and in the Summit in Geneva. The final document adopted at the Summit in 2003 incorporates important issues on gender equality arising from the Bucharest Round Table on Building a Gender Sensitive Information Society.

23.    Through the task force on gender and trade, managed by UNCTAD, the Network actively participated in the preparations for UNCTAD XI, which took place in June 2004 in São Paulo. The objectives of the task force are to sensitize policy makers at the national and international levels to issues and policies identified as important for achieving gender equality; to promote incorporation of gender equality and development concerns into global economic processes and trade agreements; and to promote coherence and synergy between national and international strategies and rules in sectoral policies and in

institutions with respect to the interface between trade, gender and development. The task force undertook activities related to these objectives, including preparation of a reference document on the linkages between gender equality and trade and undertaking impact analysis of international trade and trade-related agreements on gender equality. Additional activities focused on facilitating interactive debates on gender equality and trade in various fora.

24.     Through a task force on water managed by the Division for Sustainable Development of DESA, the Network collaborated with the Inter-agency Task Force on Water to incorporate gender perspectives into the water and sanitation thematic clusters of the first cycle of the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) for 2004-2005. The task force also works to integrate gender perspectives in the formulation of strategies to meet the MDGs related to water and sanitation; and to provide inputs to the World Water Assessment Programme to ensure incorporation of gender concerns into indicators and policy recommendations of the next edition of the World Water Development Report (2006). In collaboration with other stakeholders, the Network organized side events and prepared briefing notes on the important linkages between gender, and water and sanitation at the CSD in April 2004.

25.     The Network is also actively involved in intergovernmental processes related to women, peace and security, pursuant to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325. The task manager is the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI/DESA). The Task force members include 20 UN entities and five non-governmental organizations. The task force aims to develop new approaches to support implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 and monitor and report on progress. Since 2000, the task force has carried out a wide range of diverse activities, which include: analysis of attention to gender perspectives (including the participation of women) in Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council; development of briefing kits for Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs) and for Security Council missions to support consultation with women, for example to West Africa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes, and Afghanistan; preparation of checklists for assessment missions to support consultation for women, for example to Iraq, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan; promotion of participation of gender specialists in Integrated Mission Task forces (IMTFs) and UNDG Coordination Groups, such as in Iraq, Sudan, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire; preparation of a database on local women's networks and NGOs which includes the names and contacts of women's groups and networks which can be consulted during missions and visits; and development of a database of gender experts who can be called upon to provide technical assistance in needs assessments and other processes.[9]

## IV.     Advocacy for gender mainstreaming

26.     An important aspect of the work of the Network is advocacy for gender mainstreaming. Advocacy highlights emerging issues to ensure that gender equality remains an important concern on the global agenda and provides information on good practices. The Network carries out advocacy through a variety of tools, including short and concise fact sheets, posters, briefing kits and websites. The website of the Network provides information on the activities of the task forces, annual meetings and joint meetings in and outside of the UN.[10] In addition the Network has established thematic websites such as on MDGs;[11] gender and trade;[12] gender indicators;[13] and women, peace and security.[14]

27.     The inter-agency website, WomenWatch, managed by  the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW/DESA), is a portal to information on the work of the UN system on gender equality and the advancement of women.[15] It provides a gateway to all websites of the UN system on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. This website has led to improved coverage of UN activities on gender issues through feature web pages; increased the effective use of online discussions; and ensured more accurate and up-to-date information on events, training programmes and publications. A recently

launched Directory of Resources includes a section on gender mainstreaming resources from throughout the UN system.

## V.    Conclusions and challenges

28.    In the context of General Assembly resolution 57/270 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, inter-agency collaboration and coordination on gender equality assumes even greater importance. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality will continue to promote synergies within the UN system and find opportunities to enhance system-wide collaboration and coordination. The Network will continue to promote and facilitate gender mainstreaming as a key strategy to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women.

29.    The Network will continue to engage different stakeholders at the global, regional and national levels and to promote partnerships at all these levels. By reinforcing its focus on establishing coherence, identifying emerging issues and promoting better monitoring of actions related to gender equality, the Network can be instrumental in ensuring that gender equality is an integral part of the work of the UN system and the global development agenda.

30.    The promotion of gender equality is an ongoing process and gender mainstreaming has proven to be an effective strategy. However, there still remains more to be done. This will require the continued commitment of all senior managers in the UN system in order to effectively meet the challenges ahead. The role of the Chief Executive Board for Coordination and its High-level Committee for Programme (HLCP) and High-level Committee for Management (HLCM) could be enhanced in this regard.

31.    The establishment of Gender Theme Groups (GTGs) can be effective in meeting the challenge of strengthening the implementation of the agreed conclusions 1997/2 particularly in country programming through the effective use of Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and the United Nations Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Millennium Development Reports (MDRs). A challenge facing the Network is ensuring that the effectiveness of Gender Theme Groups is increased, including through the establishment of clear mandates and guidelines, the appointment of senior staff with consideration to gender balance, and allocation of resources.

32.    While the integration of gender perspectives in the social sectors, such as health and education, has met with reasonable success, much less has been achieved in areas such as macroeconomic policies, trade, finance and transport. The Network needs to direct more attention towards developing methodologies and tools to support capacity development for gender mainstreaming in these areas.

33.    The Network will work to increase the sharing of information, tools, lessons learned and good practices, including through electronic means.

34.    In operational activities more attention has to be given to developing a variety of methodologies and approaches that can be effectively adapted to different contexts at the country level.

35.    One of the major challenges of monitoring the progress of gender mainstreaming has been insufficient data disaggregated by sex and gender-specific information. The establishment of monitoring frameworks that use data disaggregated by sex should be integrated into all operational and programme activities. This will improve the development of indicators and benchmarks.

[1] See A/S-23/8

[2] www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/collaboration.htm

[3] For example, the World Summit for Social Development and Beyond: Achieving Social Development for All in a Globalized World (Special Session of the General Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, 26-30 June 2000).

[4] www.womenwatch.org

[5] The results of the survey are posted on the ECLAC website www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles/inventor.htm

[6] www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/activities/tfccundaf.htm

[7] (IACWGE/V/6)

[8] www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/activities/tfprogbudgproc.htm

[9] For more information see the CRP 3 on Gender mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations on peace and security, E/2004/3.

[10] www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/ianwge

[11] www.mdgender.net

[12] www.un-gender-trade.org

[13] www.eclac.cl/mujer/proyectos/perfiles/inventor.htm

[14] www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/gmtoolsscnoteres.htm

[15] www.un.org/womenwatch

**Annex**

Inter-Agency Network for Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)
Outputs and Contributions of Task Forces to Gender Mainstreaming

| Name | Objectives | Outputs | Contributions to gender mainstreaming |
|---|---|---|---|
| WomenWatch (www.un.org/womenwatch)<br><br>1998-Present<br><br>Task Manager: DAW/DESA | To provide a gateway to all websites of the United Nations on the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment | • An expanded directory providing links to UN system online resources and events on promotion of gender equality | • Improved coverage of UN activities on specific issues through feature pages<br>• Increased and more effective use of online discussions<br>• Accurate and up-to-date information on events, training programmes, publications |
| Good practices in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and gender mainstreaming (www.un.org/womenwatch/resources/goodpractices)<br><br>1998-2001<br><br>Task Managers: UNIFEM and UNDP | To demonstrate the diverse ways that UN entities are implementing the mandate to achieve gender equality; and to encourage replication and adaptation of good practices across regions and organizations | • Database on a collection of good practices in the areas of armed conflict, trafficking, violence against women, power and decision-making, and poverty. | • A collection of good practices that could be replicated in other countries. |

| Name | Objectives | Outputs | Contributions to gender mainstreaming |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gender mainstreaming in budget processes (www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/activities/tfprogbudgproc.htm)<br><br>1998-2003<br><br>Task Manager: DAW/DESA | To promote gender mainstreaming in budget processes throughout the UN system | • A three-part report from the initial assessment<br>• Case studies on 14 UN entities<br>• A mid-term synthesis report<br>• 2 system-wide workshops<br>• A guide on developing gender- sensitive results statements and developing gender-sensitive indicators<br>• An exercise to facilitate mainstreaming gender perspectives in programme budget processes | • Improvement in references to gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive methods and outcomes reflected in the UN Secretariat Medium-Term Plans 1998-2001 and 2002-2005.<br>• Efforts undertaken by DPA, ESCAP, ESCWA, FAO, ILO, ITU, OCHA, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP to include gender perspectives in budget processes. |
| Compilation of a database on gender training materials (www.un.org/womenwatch/asp/user/list.asp?ParentID=10879)<br><br>1999-2001<br><br>Task Manager: UNICEF | To identify, disseminate and exchange existing and emerging information on gender training | • Collection of gender training resource material from UN entities such as FAO, IFAD, ILO, INSTRAW, OCHA, UNIDO, UNIFEM, and UNITAR | • Broad dissemination of gender training materials that could be used a resource base for training throughout the UN system. |
| Gender focal points in the UN system<br><br>1999-2001<br><br>Task Manager: UNFPA | To review of the gender focal point function in the UN system, taking into account ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2 | • A study examining profiles, functions, organizational structures, and managements of gender focal points in the UN system. Key recommendations provided to assist in assigning gender focal points in the UN system. | • Greater clarity on the role of gender focal points in the system, and the areas needing improvement. |

| Name | Objectives | Outputs | Contributions to gender mainstreaming |
|---|---|---|---|
| Financing for development (www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/activities/tffinfdevelop.htm).<br><br>2001-2002<br><br>Task Manager:<br>DAW/DESA | To ensure that gender perspectives are reflected in the documentation and discussions of the preparatory processes of the International Conference on Financing for Development | • Report from the day of dialogue on mainstreaming gender perspectives in financing for development (2002)<br>• Proceedings of the panel on "Gender Mainstreaming in National Budgets: A Strategy for Ensuring Gender-Sensitive Allocations" (January 2002)<br>• Overview on gender perspectives in financing for development issues and existing intergovernmental mandates. (a) Mainstreaming gender perspectives in issues addressed in the preparations for the International Conference on Financing for Development: An initial analysis (b) Intergovernmental mandates on incorporating gender perspectives in the issues covered by the International Conference on Financing for Development.<br>• Webpage on Gender and Financing for Development<br>• Inputs to the CD-Rom on Financing for Development | Gender perspectives reflected in:<br>• The final report of the Secretary-General to the Preparatory Committee for the High-level Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development (A/AC.257/12)<br>• General Assembly resolution 55/210 on implementation of the first Decade for the eradication of poverty<br>• General Assembly resolution 55/182 on International Trade and Development.<br>• The outcome document of the International Conference on Financing for Development |

| Name | Objectives | Outputs | Contributions to gender mainstreaming |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gender and information and communication technologies (www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/activities/tfgenderict.htm).<br><br>2001-Present<br><br>Task Managers: ITU, FAO and UNESCO | To ensure that gender perspectives are taken into account in information and communication technologies | • A survey assessing how entities/organizations address gender and ICT in their work.<br>• A database with a set of past, current and planned projects on gender and ICTs within the UN system, located on the INSTRAW website to facilitate knowledge sharing.<br>• Panel discussion and other side events were organized during WSIS.<br>• Fact Sheets on gender and information and communication technologies distributed to the WSIS preparatory meetings and conference | • Increased awareness of the need for gender perspectives in information and communication technologies<br>• Inclusion of gender sensitive language in the WSIS Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action . |
| Tools and Indicators for Gender Impact Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation (www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/activities/tftoolsindicators.htm)<br><br>2001-2003<br><br>Task Manager: ECLAC | To focus on the availability and use of gender indicators as well as the development of new indicators for new areas of concern | • A three-year project on data collection and the use of gender indicators for policy-making in the UN system<br>• A compendium on recording and classifying all available gender-specific indicators, data sources and methodological problems<br>• Creation of two websites – one at ECLAC (www.eclac.org) and the other at ECE (www.ece.org)<br>• A CD-ROM on gender indicators | • Availability of gender indicators for use in policy research in and outside the UN system |

| Name | Objectives | Outputs | Contributions to gender mainstreaming |
|---|---|---|---|
| Women, peace and security (www.un.org/womenwatch/ osagi gmtoolsscnoteres.htm)<br><br>2001-Present<br><br>Task Manager: OSAGI/DESA | To provide follow-up on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on *Women, Peace and Security* | • Study on *Women, peace and security*.<br>• 'At a Glance' publication combining the outcomes of the study on *Women, peace and* security and Security Council resolution 1325 published by the Department of Public Information.<br>• Gender analysis of the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council for January 2000-September 2003 for submission to the Executive Committee on Peace and Security.<br>• Briefing kits for all Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs) of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.<br>• Briefing notes for Security Council missions (in West Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes, and Afghanistan).<br>• Contributed to the preparation of the gender checklists for assessment missions (Iraq, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan). | • Gender concerns taken into account more frequently in peace and security matters such as Security Council missions, and terms of references (TORs).<br>• Preparation of briefing notes and briefing kits for SRSGs.<br>• Gender Experts and Advisers assigned in peace-keeping missions.<br>• Enhanced collaboration with other networks and groups working on women, peace and security. |

| Name | Objectives | Outputs | Contributions to gender mainstreaming |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mainstreaming a gender perspective in CCA/UNDAF (www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/activities/tfccundaf.htm)<br><br>2001-present<br><br>Task Manager: UNIFEM | To bring together critical thinking on the CCA/UNDAF process from a gender perspective, to create a common understanding of gender mainstreaming in CCA/UNDAFs and to propose methodologies and tools for effectively addressing gender issues in UN coordination processes | • Provided input to six draft CCAs and UNDAFs (including Botswana UNDAF, Uganda UNDAF, Mongolia UNDAF, Kenya CCA, Lebanon CCA, and Mozambique UNDAF).<br>• A desk review to assess the extent to which gender perspectives were included in the final documents and processes of the CCA/UNDAF | • Greater awareness of the gender dimensions of the CCA and UNDAF processes.<br>• Greater attention to the role of Gender Theme Groups. |
| Gender and the millennium development goals (www.mdgender.net)<br><br>2003-Present<br><br>Task Manager: UNDP and World Bank | To bring attention to the importance of gender dimensions in achieving each of the Millennium Development Goals, rather than Goal 3 alone | • Online discussion on gender and the MDGs<br>• Report of the Workshop on gender and MDG in Washington, DC<br>• Gender and MDG website<br>• 4 publications by task force members: (a) UNDP: MDG National Reports (b) WB: Gender Equality and the MDGs (c) WHO: 'Engendering' the MDGs on Health and (d) Gender Equality an the MDGs leaflet | • Increased awareness of the importance of taking into account the gender dimensions of the MDGs |
| Gender and trade (www.un-gender-trade.org)<br><br>2003-Present<br><br>Task Manager: UNCTAD | To sensitize policymakers at the national and international levels to issues/policies identified by the Task Force as important for achieving gender equality and development | • Creation of a website on gender and trade<br>• Publication on gender and trade for input to UNCTAD XI | • Creating great awareness of dimensions of trade<br>• The topic of gender and trade considered at UNCTAD XI |

| Name | Objectives | Outputs | Contributions to gender mainstreaming |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gender and water<br><br>2003-Present<br><br>Task Manager: DSD/DESA | Aims to promote gender mainstreaming and women's equality in the implementation of the water and sanitation targets included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the global, regional, national and local levels. | • Provided gender-specific language for the paper on water and sanitation prepared by consultants working on the Millennium Project.<br>• Organized and/or contributed to a number of side events at the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). (a) Water, Education and Youth: A Dialogue; (b) Gender, Water and Poverty Connection; (c) Learning Centre on Gender and Sanitation; (d) Achieving the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation: Unheard Voices of Women. | • Greater linkages made to gender equality, women's empowerment and access to water and sanitation in interactive plenary discussions during CSD 12. |