

## Resolution

2011/6

### **Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Reaffirming* its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,<sup>1</sup> and recalling its resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004, 2005/31 of 26 July 2005, 2006/36 of 27 July 2006, 2007/33 of 27 July 2007, 2008/34 of 25 July 2008, 2009/12 of 28 July 2009 and 2010/29 of 23 July 2010,

*Reaffirming also* the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,<sup>2</sup>

*Reaffirming further* that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and constitutes a critical strategy in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action<sup>3</sup> and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,<sup>4</sup>

*Welcoming* the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) which consolidates the mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, with the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender

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<sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1)*, chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 59.

<sup>3</sup> *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

equality and the empowerment of women, as established under General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>5</sup> and the recommendations contained therein, and calls for further and continued efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations in accordance with all relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Stresses* that the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality constitutes a key forum for achieving more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas and practical experience on gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and looks forward to the continued implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

3. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to continue mainstreaming the issue of gender in accordance with previous resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, in particular resolution 2008/34, and General Assembly resolution 64/289, including mainstreaming a gender perspective into all operational mechanisms, inter alia the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and other development frameworks, ensuring that managers provide leadership and support, within the United Nations system, to advance gender mainstreaming, strengthening monitoring, reporting and evaluation so as to allow system-wide assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, and using existing training resources, including institutions and infrastructure, to assist in the development and application of unified training modules and tools on gender mainstreaming and to promote the collection, analysis and use of accurate, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by sex and age, during programme development and the evaluation of gender mainstreaming in order to assess progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States, with their agreement and consent, in the implementation of national policies for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, by providing

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<sup>5</sup> E/2011/114.

support and capacity development to national machineries for the advancement of women;

5. *Recognizes* that large gaps remain between policy and practice and that building United Nations staff capacities alone is not sufficient for the entire United Nations system to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming;

6. *Calls upon* UN-Women, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/289:

(a) To ensure that its work leads to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system;

(b) To fully assume its role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(c) To continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work;

(d) To establish concrete results-based reporting mechanisms, as well as to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

(e) In the context of its work at the field level, to operate as part of the resident coordinator system, within the United Nations country team, leading and coordinating the work of the country team on gender equality and the empowerment of women, under the overall leadership of the resident coordinator;

(f) Based on the principle of universality, to provide, through its normative support functions and operational activities, guidance and technical support to all Member States, across all levels of development and in all regions, at their request, on gender equality, the empowerment and rights of women and gender mainstreaming;

7. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes within their respective organizational mandates, to continue working collaboratively to enhance gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, including by:

(a) Ensuring effective coordination on gender mainstreaming and gender equality and the empowerment of women, within existing coordination mechanisms, including the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination,

the High-Level Committee on Programmes, the High-Level Committee on Management, the United Nations Development Group and the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, led by UN-Women, with clear roles and responsibilities designated for all parts of the system;

(b) Ensuring strong leadership at the Headquarters level, and providing clear guidance and improved collaboration within the United Nations country teams;

(c) Enhancing resource mobilization capacity and increasing the predictability of both human and financial resources for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(d) Enhancing and strengthening the various accountability frameworks of the United Nations system to ensure more coherent, accurate and effective management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of each United Nations entity's gender equality results, including tracking of gender-related resource allocation and expenditure, and results-based approaches within the United Nations system;

(e) Improving the application of a gender perspective in programming work and enhancing a broader approach to capacity development for all United Nations staff, including the Secretariat staff, including by working on guidelines which could provide specialized instructions on gender mainstreaming and serve as performance indicators against which staff could be assessed;

(f) Ensuring greater focus on deliverables and the development of clear gender equality outcomes and outputs in programming activities, including in the United Nations development framework, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, so as to ensure that attention is paid to the needs and priorities of women and girls at the country level;

(g) Ensuring support from United Nations country teams for national efforts to accelerate progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals and other commitments related to gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(h) Ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, including by providing ongoing capacity development for resident coordinators and the United Nations country teams to ensure that they are better able to assist national partners in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women through their development frameworks;

(i) Enhancing the use of data disaggregated by sex by the United Nations country teams in the preparation of indicators to measure progress, including, where used, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

(j) Ensuring progress, including through managerial and departmental accountability, towards achieving the goal of a 50/50 gender balance at all levels in the Secretariat and throughout the United Nations system, with due regard to the representation of women from developing countries and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographical representation, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2012 a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with particular emphasis on progress in promoting system-wide accountability on gender equality and the empowerment of women at both the global and country levels.

*29th plenary meeting  
14 July 2011*