



*Aide Memoir and Workshop Agenda*

**Workshop of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and  
Gender Equality (IANWGE)**

**“Ten-year review of gender mainstreaming:  
Focusing on Results”**

**24 February 2005, Conference Room 5**

## **Introduction**

The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) meets annually to share and exchange experiences on strengthening gender mainstreaming tools and strategies in the United Nations system. One of the activities of the IANWGE is a workshop that focuses specifically on practical approaches to gender mainstreaming. This year's workshop will be the fifth workshop on gender mainstreaming. Earlier workshops have covered the following themes:

- 2001: Approaches and methodologies for gender mainstreaming
- 2002: Training and capacity-building for gender-mainstreaming
- 2003: Strategies for incorporating gender perspectives into the preparatory processes of major international conferences, summits and special sessions, as well as their follow-up
- 2004: Mainstreaming a gender perspective in evaluation, monitoring and reporting

A summary of recommendations made in these workshops are contained in the full reports of the IANWGE reports.

At its 2004 session, the Network decided to have a broader theme for its 2005 workshop allowing for a more in-depth discussion on how gender mainstreaming strategies have worked in practice and how to move forward. This decision was taken in consideration of the ten-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action, which endorsed gender mainstreaming as major global strategy for promoting gender equality. The Economic and Social Council carried out a review and appraisal of the 1997 agreed conclusions on gender mainstreaming in July last year. In both review processes a number of challenges for implementation were identified and a new resolution underscoring the continuing for gender mainstreaming was made (attached).

## **The Millennium Development Goals**

The workshop is also being held against the backdrop of the global meeting on the Millennium Development Goals later this year. In that context the UN Millennium Project released in January 2005 a report entitled "Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals". Among the recommendations of the report is the need to accelerate progress towards gender equality, including focusing specifically on women's and girls' health (including reproductive health), their education outcomes, access to economic and political opportunities, right to control assets, and freedom from violence. The report also notes the importance of strengthening UN coordination at the international as well as at the country levels (see attachments).

The workshop is intended to explore how the IANWGE can respond to these and other recent debates at national and international levels regarding progress, or lack thereof, in gender mainstreaming. These debates have been triggered by the many challenges encountered in implementation. Although the majority of the debates have emphasized the validity of gender mainstreaming, they have note nonetheless that practical methods of implementing the strategy are still elusive for many people.

## **Overall objectives**

This year's workshop will give the Network an opportunity to address these issues and to identify practical steps to respond to some of them in order to accelerate progress towards gender equality. The ECOSOC resolution 2004/4 (attached) on 'the review of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusion 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and

programmes in the United Nations system' identified gender mainstreaming action plans as an important tool for bridging the gap between policies and practice. The resolution requests the Secretary-General to:

*ensure that all United Nations entities develop action plans with time lines for implementing the agreed conclusions 1997/2, which address the gap between policy and practice identified in the Secretary-General's report, with a view to strengthening commitment and accountability at the highest levels within the United Nations system as well as to establishing mechanisms to ensure accountability, systematic monitoring and reporting on progress in implementation;*

To follow-up on this request, presentations will highlight some of the emerging tools and approaches that agencies can integrate in their action plans so as to strengthen monitoring and reporting.

### **Format and presentations**

The workshop will comprise of presentations followed by plenary discussions. The presentations will focus on specific examples that describe the implementation of new tools or methodologies, or those that depict approaches of working with constituencies aimed at delivering results to promote gender equality. The presentations will also highlight opportunities that exist for the IANWGE to strengthen their collaboration and coordination in order to accelerate the achievement of results.

The last session in the afternoon will be devoted to group work. The aim of the group work is to assist the network to map a way forward in discussing areas of collaboration and concretizing methods of work especially in light of the Millennium project's report of suggested "quick wins" for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The groups may also make general recommendations to the IANWGE. Each group will identify its own facilitators and rapporteurs. The rapporteurs will report back to the plenary a summary of the group's discussions, conclusions and recommendations.

### **Expected outcome**

The workshop is expected to help chart some new initiatives and methods of work among the agencies that can help to strengthen coordination both at the international, regional as well as the national levels. The findings and recommendations of the workshop will be included in the report of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.