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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION DIRECTORATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

DAC Network on Gender Equality

**WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL
AGENCIES TO SUPPORT PARTNER COUNTRY EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY
AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

Summary record of the Joint Biennial Workshop of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and the United Nations' Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), Paris, 28-29 January 2008.

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Enhancing Partnerships between Multilateral and Bilateral Agencies to Support Partner Country Efforts to Achieve Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Joint biennial workshop of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and the United Nations' Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)

28 and 29 January 2008

Introduction and background to the 2008 workshop

1. The OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality and the United Nations' Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality hold a workshop every two years to exchange ideas and share information on issues of mutual relevance and interest. The two groups represent the gender focal points and advisors of the United Nations system, bilateral agencies and the development banks.

Focus of the workshop

- The role of multilateral agencies in delivering on commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment
- How bilateral agencies can best support the efforts of multilateral agencies
- Innovative practices in partnerships between bilateral and multilateral agencies
- Opportunities to enhance and scale up our mutual work to support partner country efforts, and
- Improved tracking of development assistance focussed on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Purpose and objectives

2. The workshop provided a framework for:

- Developing strategies to increase investments focussed on gender equality and women's empowerment
- Identifying the respective comparative advantages of multilateral and bilateral donors
- Rethinking and reshaping the ways in which bilateral and multilateral donors work together to support partner country efforts
- Sharing experiences and innovations, and
- Exploring ways of working together on assessment frameworks to measure and evaluate the performance of multilateral agencies.

Intended outcomes

- Improved division of labour, based on comparative advantage, in our respective efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment
- Improved collaboration and harmonisation in partner countries
- A continued increase in the proportion of aid directed towards the achievement of gender equality
- Improved measurement of the amount of aid focussed on gender equality, and
- Increased mutual accountability.

Workshop web site: www.oecd.org/dac/gender/ianwgeworkshop

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE 2008 JOINT GENDERNET/IANWGE WORKSHOP

Gender equality and women's empowerment are key drivers of effective development. There is a strong case for increasing the proportion of Official Development Assistance directed towards gender equality and women's empowerment in line with both international efforts to scale-up aid and the focus on results.

Aid donors - bilateral and multilateral - are responsible for ensuring predictable and stable aid flows, while partner countries are accountable for the allocation and use of resources.

All members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) are urged to use the DAC gender equality policy marker when reporting on their aid and to increase the proportion of aid activities screened.

Multilateral agencies are encouraged to improve the tracking of spending on gender equality and women's empowerment. The DAC gender equality policy marker system could be applied or used as a model.

There is scope for improving the measurement of domestic resource allocations through tools such as gender responsive budgeting and tracking mechanisms designed to assess whether public expenditure and services reach their intended target group – women and girls.

Improved methodologies are needed to assess the results and impacts of donor investments in gender equality.

The DAC Working Party on Statistics and the Network on Gender Equality will jointly explore whether guidelines for applying the gender equality policy marker to general and sectoral budget support could be developed to ensure comparability of members' reporting.

Bilateral donors can support multilateral agencies to increase efforts to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment, including improving the tracking of spending. Developing coherent policy messages by bilateral donors has proven to be an effective strategy for influencing multilateral policies, programming and performance.

Bilateral and multilateral donors can strengthen their collaborative efforts at partner country level to develop capacity so that partner countries take ownership of achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

Gender advisors in bilateral and multilateral agencies and in partner countries are encouraged to build alliances and share information with each other and with colleagues.

Responsibility and accountability for achieving specific results need to be incorporated into joint programming arrangements.

Relevant gender equality indicators should be included in multilateral agencies assessment frameworks (such as the Multilateral Organizations Performance Assessment Network survey) and in peer review mechanisms, as appropriate.

Financing for gender equality and women's empowerment should be addressed at the *Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus* (Doha, 29 November to 2 December 2008) and in its outcome document.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

3. Workshop chairs:

- **Ms Dorthea Damkjaer**, Chair of DAC Network on Gender Equality, and
- **Ms Marcela Villarreal**, Director, Gender, Equality and Rural Employment Division of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (on behalf of Rachel Mayanja, Chair of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality).

4. **Mr Mario Amano**, Deputy Secretary General, OECD, commended the close collaboration between the DAC Network on Gender Equality and the UN's Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and reminded participants of the groundbreaking joint workshop on gender equality and aid effectiveness in Nairobi in 2006. This year's workshop is an important opportunity to reflect on new ways of working together to support partner countries in their efforts to improve women's status and to reduce discrimination and inequality. The outcomes of the workshop would provide the basis of key messages to take forward to the reviews of the implementation of the Paris Declaration and of the Monterrey Consensus.

5. **Mr Koichiro Matsuura**, Director-General, UNESCO, emphasised that gender equality and women's empowerment can only be achieved through allocating the requisite financial and human resources. Mr Matsuura urged members of the UN family to work together to pool resources and expertise in the pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment. He offered to submit the conclusions and recommendations from the workshop to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) session in April 2008.

6. **Mr Eckhard Deutscher**, Chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC), expressed the DAC's great appreciation for the close working relationship between the two networks on gender equality and specifically pointed to how GENDERNET and IANWGE members had successfully supported the adoption of the World Bank gender action plan, *Gender equality as smart economics*.

7. Mr Deutscher also emphasised the importance of measuring and tracking aid. He noted that the DAC statistical databases, which hold the most detailed information available globally about official development assistance (ODA), would be richer still if they included more data on multilateral aid. For the major forthcoming meetings such as the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and the Doha meeting on financing for development we need to be able to demonstrate results.

8. **Ms Marcela Villarreal** identified the workshop as a significant opportunity to deepen the follow-up and implementation of the Beijing *Platform for Action* and the Monterrey Consensus. She encouraged members of both networks to chart, through partnerships, a new course of action, learn from each other's experience and support each other in various fora on financing for development, in order to further the work on gender equality, development and governance.

SESSION 1: SETTING THE SCENE – THE GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF FINANCING

Session chair: **Ms Marcela Villarreal**

Speakers: **Mr Brian Hammond**, Counsellor on aid architecture and financing, OECD and **Mr Manuel Montes**, Chief of Policy Analysis and Development Branch, UN Financing for Development Office.

9. *The objectives* of this session were to provide overviews and assessments of aid architecture, how much aid is being delivered (where, by whom) and how far we have delivered on the gender equality dimensions of the Monterrey Consensus.

A global picture of aid flows and architecture

10. Even though *total ODA from DAC donors* has increased over the last few years (to USD 106.8 billion in 2005), ODA in 2006 - without the large debt relief granted to Iraq and Nigeria - fell to USD 104.4 billion. Moreover, a new DAC survey tool, developed to measure future spending, indicates that while three quarters of DAC members have programmed increases in their country programmable aid up to 2010, these pledges fall short of the 2010 ODA figures implicit in DAC members' public commitments. Actors from the UN system were invited to share their allocation plans with the DAC Secretariat for input into the survey.

11. Funding from DAC donors *to and through multilateral agencies* amounted to around USD 50 billion in 2006. Of this, core funding to multilaterals added up to around USD 32 billion while funds earmarked for a specific region, activity or sector made up the rest. It was noted that a better overview is needed of how money to multilaterals is being spent, and that the DAC Secretariat is currently working to bring members into a joint exercise of assessing multilateral effectiveness (see also Session 3).

12. The proliferation and fragmentation of development actors was stressed in respect to *aid architecture*. Most partner countries have to deal with over 20 DAC donors which offers considerable scope for donors to sharpen their focus.

Financing for gender equality and women's empowerment

13. Gender equality and women's empowerment are relevant to all topics addressed by the Financing for Development process (domestic resource mobilisation, private capital flows, trade as an engine for development, official development assistance, external debt, and systemic issues).

14. Any efforts to integrate gender equality dimensions into Financing for Development, including the *Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus* (Doha, 29 November – 2 December 2008), should take account of the Conference's aim to "... assess progress made, reaffirm goals and commitments, share best practices and lessons learned and identify obstacles and constraints encountered, actions and initiatives to overcome them and important measures for further implementation, as well as new challenges and emerging issues". A draft of the Conference's outcome document will be prepared by the facilitators (Egypt and Norway) by the end of July and the final document for discussion in Doha is expected by September.

15. Other possible actions to ensure the Doha Conference addresses financing for gender equality and women's empowerment include incorporating references in outcome documents of other processes (such as the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the consultations organised by UN's regional commissions) and involvement in the informal UN General Assembly panels preparing for the Conference.

Schedule for the informal UN General Assembly Panels
14 February: Domestic Resource Mobilisation
15 February: Private Foreign Capital Flows
11 March: External Debt
12 March: Systemic Issues
15-16 April: Aid
19 -20 May: Trade

SESSION 2: MEASURING AND TRACKING GENDER EQUALITY FOCUSED AID - WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW AND WHAT IS POSSIBLE

Session chair: **Ms Julia Benn**, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD), Statistical Division

Speakers: **Ms Valerie Gaveau**, OECD DCD Statistical Division; **Ms Angela Langenkamp**, Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ), Germany; **Mr Geert Deserranno**, Chair of the OECD DAC Working Party on Statistics; **Ms Rukiye Zeynep Başak**, Gender Team, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and, **Mr Mikael Hemnti-Winther**, Deputy Head of the Quality Assurance Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark.

16. *The objectives* of this session were to share information on how the DAC gender equality policy marker works and what it tells us, the political imperatives for establishing a baseline for agency expenditure on gender equality focussed aid, and what might be possible within the UN system.

17. Aid statistics can create peer pressure and political incentives to change approaches to gender equality and women's empowerment. Moreover, discussion within an agency on how to mark aid in, for example, the DAC statistical reporting system can create the internal leverage and dynamics needed for change.

The DAC gender equality policy marker

18. The gender equality policy marker is applied by DAC donors to screen whether activities have gender equality and women's empowerment as a *principal* objective, as a *significant* objective or do *not target* gender equality and women's empowerment.

19. Data collected through the policy marker helps monitor change in aid programmes over time, allows for comparison across sectors and provides information about gender equality focused aid by recipient. The marker is however not designed to measure results or outcomes.

20. In Germany, the use and application of the DAC gender equality policy marker has been harmonised between the BMZ and the implementing agencies [German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) and the German development bank (KfW Entwicklungsbank)], by further refining the definition and application of the three categories. A quality control system has also been established, including a mandatory gender analysis of each project/programme assessment. See also: *Impacts on Gender Equality in Development Cooperation Interventions: Gender Markers in Technical and Financial Cooperation - Case Studies and Standard Materials*, available on www.oecd.org/dac/gender/ianwgeworkshop.

21. All members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) are encouraged to report on the DAC gender equality policy marker and to increase the proportion of aid activities screened. The DAC Working Party on Statistics and GENDERNET were encouraged to work together to explore whether guidelines for applying the gender equality marker to general and sectoral budget support could be developed to ensure comparability of members' reporting.

22. Multilateral agencies are also invited to improve tracking of spending on gender equality and women's empowerment. The DAC marker could be used as a basis and the DAC Secretariat stands ready to assist this process.

23. The European Commission noted that they are to prepare guidelines for the DAC gender equality policy marker in 2008 and WHO noted that they are about to develop a new monitoring system. Canada stressed their focus on results rather than expenditure.

Other initiatives to track gender-related investments and expenditures

24. The UNDP has made efforts to improve tracking of gender-related resources in ATLAS, UNDP's resource management platform. Due to incomplete capture of gender mainstreaming activities in the current system, two possible new approaches have been developed and piloted: one similar to the DAC system, with every activity rated from 0 to 2, and the second involving coding the gender equality focus of aid activities by percentage. Feedback from pilot countries suggests that both approaches have potential to improve reporting but that the DAC-like approach is the preferred option.

25. In Denmark, efforts are ongoing to improve tracking of aid spending on gender equality and other so-called "cross cutting" issues to increase financial accountability for policy commitments. A model has been developed and a survey of Embassies' spending undertaken that will provide a baseline of current investments, against which future investments can be measured. In addition, multilateral agencies have been requested to provide estimates of their spending. Attention to gender equality and women's empowerment is likely to increase through this initiative which compels all staff, including in Danish Embassies, to specify and scan all activities and attach a budget for gender equality from the outset. See also: *Guide to assess the budgetary allocations related to the cross-cutting issues and HIV/aids* available on www.oecd.org/dac/gender/ianwgeworkshop.

SESSION 3: STRENGTHENING MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARTNERS AND WITH EACH OTHER

Session chair: Mr Bert van Geel, Netherlands DAC Delegate and DAC Facilitator for the GENDERNET

Speakers: Ms Kemi Williams, United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID); Ms Waafas Ofosu-Amaah, Senior Gender Specialist, World Bank; Ms Ineke van de Pol, Senior Gender Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands; and, Ms Maria Hartl, Technical Advisor, Gender and Social Equity, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

26. *The objective* of this session was to share good practice in assessing multilateral performance. A number of initiatives and proposals for such assessments were presented.

The Multilateral Organizations Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)

27. The Multilateral Organizations Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) survey was launched by a group of bilateral donors to encourage multilaterals to increase accountability and improve their reporting. The network is in the process of developing a set of common indicators, including two on gender equality. The 2007 survey covered UNDP, WHO and the African Development Bank.

The World Bank-Netherlands Partnership Programme (BNPP)

28. The World Bank-Netherlands Partnership Programme (BNPP) is a trust fund providing resources for Bank work on key development policy areas. Since 2006, the programme's gender equality component has focussed on mainstreaming gender equality into all themes and sectors. A recent evaluation, however, showed unsatisfactory results due to lack of clear objectives, gender expertise and earmarked funds. The Netherlands is currently discussing with the Bank how to take this initiative forward with a clear results-focus, including defining new commitments in collaboration with the Bank.

Proposal for a voluntary peer review mechanism on gender mainstreaming

29. IFAD presented a proposal for establishing a peer review process on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment as a way to contribute to organisational change, particularly within multilateral agencies. Some participants suggested that peer reviews might not be enough in themselves to create

behaviour change and that concrete actions were needed in agencies which continued to fail to address gender equality and women's empowerment.

SESSION 4: PARTNERSHIPS - EMERGING INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT PARTNER COUNTRY EFFORTS

30. The breakout groups used case studies to examine emerging good practice in harmonisation, alignment and managing for results; the respective comparative advantages of multilateral and bilateral donors; and good practice in the division of labour.

Breakout Group A: THE WORLD BANK ACTION PLAN, AND WOMEN IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING IN TIMOR LESTE

Breakout Group Chair: **Kathy Blakeslee**, Director, Office of Women in Development, USAID

Case study 1: Gender equality as smart economics – building the political support for and implementing the World Bank's Action Plan on the ground

Speakers: Ms Dorthea Damkjaer (Denmark); **Ms Maya Morsy**, UNIFEM Egypt Country Programme Co-ordinator; **Ms Waafas Ofosu-Amaah**, Senior Gender Specialist, World Bank; and **Ms Maria Elena Ruiz Abril**, gender equality consultant, World Bank.

31. The case study described how interactions with various actors, including the DAC GENDERNET, and the strategic use of key events helped build the political support needed to adopt the World Bank Action Plan - *Gender equality as smart economics*.

32. The Action Plan applies to the entire Bank and provides the financial incentives to integrate gender issues into work in different sectors and into action on the ground. The pilot projects are currently developing evidence that support for women's economic empowerment can strengthen earnings, improve the productivity of enterprises and alter gender relations. One pilot is in Egypt, bringing together World Bank funding, UNIFEM technical expertise and external evaluation. In Liberia, the Bank uses its comparative advantage to support the economic sector in the context of the PRSP.

33. Building on the alliances created around the Gender Action Plan and in light of the September 2008 High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly to re-energise the world's commitment to the MDGs, the Government of Denmark is launching a global MDG3 campaign in support of gender equality and women's empowerment. Members of the two networks were invited to support and join the campaign.

Case study 2: Timor Leste – women in politics and decision-making

Speakers: Ms Dianne Arboleda, UNIFEM Programme Office, East Timor; **Ms Rosa Maria do Rosario de Sousa**, Executive Director, FOKUPERS (Communication Forum for East Timorese Women); and, **Ms Carol Hannon**, Irish Aid.

34. UNIFEM East/Southeast Asia has been implementing the "Integrated Programme for Women in Politics and Decision Making", in partnership with stakeholders including the government, political parties, civil society and media, since Timor Leste's independence in 2001.

35. In the past Irish Aid had separately supported efforts to promote women candidates in the village elections but more recently, in an effort to harmonise support, started co-funding the UNIFEM programme. Specific challenges related to working in partnership with a multilateral agency included the reluctance to

operate in true partnership, the bureaucratic arrangements for receiving funds, and the lack of openness, transparency and recognition of what each partner can bring to the table.

36. The work of the NGO Fokupers in Timor Leste is focussed on women's human rights and gender-based violence. The organisation monitored the 2007 election campaign including women's role in campaign events and media coverage of female candidates.

37. Key lessons learned from the discussions in the breakout group included:

- Information-sharing and early linkages are key elements for successful partnerships
- Strategic use of key events and political partnerships with both "like-minded" and new partners can bring about change
- Serendipity plays a role. Sometimes the "right" actors meet at the "right" time by coincidence
- Senior leaders need to make public commitments to gender equality, and
- Strategic partnerships for change need to build on ownership by the government and civil society
- Long-term support is necessary to ensure sustainability.

Breakout Group B: ORGANISING AND CO-OPERATING ACROSS A REGION

Breakout Group Chair: **Ms Aminata Toure**, Chief, Culture, Gender and Human Rights Branch, UNFPA

Case study 3: Central America – UN/donor partnership to support Ministries of Women's Affairs to address gender dimensions of trade agreements

Speakers: **Ms Teresa Rodriguez**, UNIFEM Central America Programme Director; **Ms Bianca Pomeranzi**, Senior Gender and Development Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy; and **Ms Raquel Herrera**, UNDP's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.

38. This case study outlined the experience of UN agencies working together with the support of Italy and Sweden on a three-year programme to influence regional trade policy frameworks by addressing gender dimensions of trade agreements in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The initiative addresses core challenges relating to gender inequalities in the region, which are mainly economic and political. Lessons learned included that efforts should be made to clarify which partner/UN agency is accountable for and/or supportive of which result when programming jointly.

Case study 4: The World Bank - Inter-American Development Bank co-operation on the Chile and Nicaragua Country Gender Assessments

Speaker: **Ms Ana Maria Munoz Boudet**, Consultant, World Bank

39. The presentation covered the experience of developing country gender assessments in Chile and Nicaragua to identify gender-responsive policies that are strategic for poverty reduction, economic growth, human well-being and development effectiveness, and to inform the policy dialogue between the banks and the government in each country. The division of labour between the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank helped enhance quality, dissemination and impact.

Case study 5: Mainstreaming gender into economic policies to reach the MGDs in Central Asia

Speaker: Ms Ewa Ruminska-Zimny, Senior Social Affairs Officer, UNECE

40. This presentation clarified that the existing gender inequalities in economic opportunities and access to the labour market in Central Asian countries are not matched by appropriate policy responses. This is reflected by the National Development Strategies (NDS) and Millennium Development Goals strategies, in which gender equality is addressed exclusively as a social issue. This project, financed by the UN Development Account, aims to assess the process of mainstreaming gender into economic policies to reach MDGs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. A Multi-Stakeholder Network has been established to implement the project, consisting of national stakeholders and acting in close co-operation with the UNDP Regional Bureau, the UNIFEM Regional Office, ILO Headquarters, the ILO Regional Office and UNDP Kazakhstan.

41. Conclusions from the breakout group discussion included:

- All economic or “functional” arguments to enhance gender equality should be grounded in the *rights* of women under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Empowering women is an investment in growth - not a social cost
- Partner country ownership should be supported so that governments call for policies that enhance gender equality.

Breakout Group C: AID EFFECTIVENESS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS DECLARATION

Breakout Group Chair: **Ineke van de Pol**, Senior Policy Officer, Netherlands

Case study 6: EC/UN Partnership on gender equality for development and peace (European Commission, UNIFEM and ILO)

Speakers: Mr Tamas Varnai, European Commission; **Ms Osnat Lubrani**, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM; **Ms Blerina Vila**, Gender Co-ordination Unit, ITC-ILO; and, **Mr Krishna Hari Baskota**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Nepal.

42. The EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace, a programme covering 12 pilot countries, is implemented by the European Commission (EC), UNIFEM and the ILO International Training Center (ITC-ILO). The programme aims to support the integration of gender equality and women’s human rights into development processes and EC co-operation programmes, in the context of the aid effectiveness agenda and to enhance implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

43. The purpose of the mapping studies in pilot countries is to examine the impact of the changed aid modalities on gender equality, and to identify good practices. The EC’s perspective on the changing aid architecture was addressed, illustrating the importance of increased resources to address the gap between policy commitments and implementation. The presentation also outlined the Government of Nepal’s challenges and opportunities in implementing the Paris Declaration at country level.

44. Workshop participants are invited to provide documents and information for the programme website: www.gendermatters.eu.

Case study 7: Partnerships in Ghana

Speaker: Mr Ian McFarlane, UNFPA deputy representative and Chair of the Gender Donors Group, Ghana

45. This presentation focussed on how donors support national efforts to address gender based and domestic violence in Ghana. Issues of ownership and leadership, capacity and implementation of policies were discussed. The importance of trust between partners, information sharing and timing were highlighted.

Case study 8: Partnering for Gender Equality in the New Environment in Tanzania

Speaker: Ms Nicola Jones, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Tanzania

46. Recent changes in Tanzania, such as the Joint Assistance Strategy and the “One UN” pilot, had provided both opportunities and challenges for partnerships for promoting gender equality. While partnerships have been strengthened and revitalised - moving towards harmonisation - attention to gender equality in general budget support is still inadequate. Monitoring and evaluation frameworks are not yet gender sensitive and civil society involvement is insufficient.

47. Lessons and messages distilled from the discussion in the breakout group:

- It is time to implement existing policies (including on predictable financing)
- Ownership takes time. Donors can support national ownership of gender equality and women’s empowerment through capacity development, but should avoid creating overload
- There is a need to identify and invest in gender champions in different sectors and at all levels
- Concrete evidence is the basis for showing results and for citizens to perceive differences. Gender equality indicators need to be included in Performance Assessment Frameworks, monitoring and evaluation, and mutual accountability frameworks
- Real incentives for addressing gender equality are needed (there are risks of local and national capacity on gender equality becoming tied up in time-consuming processes)
- Prioritisation is essential but challenging. It requires division of labour, time, trust, letting go of ego and dropping competition.

SESSION 5: INFLUENCING HOW AND WHERE DECISIONS ARE MADE

Session chair: Ms Alexandra Trzeciak-Duval, Head, Policy Co-ordination, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate

Speakers: Ambassador Guro Vikor (Norway); **Ms Prudence Woodford-Berger**, Senior Special Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden; **Ms Adepeju Olukoya**, Medical Doctor, WHO; **Ms S. Gulser Corat**, Director, Division for Gender Equality, Bureau of Strategic Planning, UNESCO; and, **Mr Eckhard Deutscher**, Chair of the DAC.

48. *The objectives* of this session were to consider how multilaterals make programming decisions about their investments in gender equality and women’s empowerment, and how bilateral donors can use political pressure to support multilateral partners to embed global political commitments in their practice.

Influencing the decision-making and policies of multilateral agencies

49. In order to increase political leverage, bilateral donors need to put forward a common and coherent message to multilateral agencies, and also ensure coherent policies *within* their country or agency.

Common political statements at board and decision-making levels is the most effective way of influencing decisions by multilaterals.

50. An example of bilateral donors taking a joint approach and delivering a common message is the work of the Nordic+ group (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Ireland and United Kingdom). This group of countries consistently raises the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment with multilateral agencies. Currently, the Nordic+ group is working together with the WHO on a statement on gender equality and health for the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

Influencing the decision-making and policies of multilateral agencies: the case of UNESCO

51. In UNESCO's New Medium-Term Strategy 2008-2013, gender equality is defined as one of two global priorities. Making gender equality a global priority for UNESCO was an evolutionary process that involved the critical support of a wide variety of stakeholders from both the member states and the UNESCO Secretariat. For example, it was after a discussion in the plenary session of the Executive Board in 2006 about making gender equality a separate issue, that the drafting group placed gender equality and Africa as global *priority* issues. When the draft text was presented to the Executive Board in April 2007, the requirement to develop a Gender Equality Action Plan was added to the Strategy. Similarly, when a member state questioned the 40% target for gender-balance at decision-making levels within the Secretariat, it set the stage for the decision of the new Human Resource Management target of 50% gender balance at decision-making levels by 2015.

SESSION 6: THE CHANGING UNITED NATIONS - IMPLICATIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Session chair: Ms Diana Rivington, Director, Equality between women and men, Canadian International Development Agency

Speakers: Ms Lubna Baqi, UN Development Group; Ms Nicola Jones, UNFPA, Tanzania; Ms Osnat Lubrani, UNIFEM; Ambassador Guro Vikor, Norway; and, Mr Andrei Abramov, Special assistant to the special advisor on gender issues and advancement of women, UNDESA/OSAGI.

52. *The objectives* of this session were to share emerging practice from the implementation of "One UN" and to update participants on progress with the "gender equality entity".

Delivering as one

53. In 2005, the UN Secretary-General formed a High-Level Panel on system-wide coherence to consider reforms to how the UN works in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

54. For development operations, the High-Level Panel organised its proposals around four "ones": **One** Programme, **One** Empowered Leader and Empowered Team, **One** Budgetary Framework, and **One** Office. A set of eight pilot country exercises had been launched and the UN Evaluation Group will begin formally assessing the initiative in 2008.

55. One of the pilot countries is Tanzania, where the vision is to simplify and align activities of the 17 resident UN agencies. It was, however, noted that practices as well as mindsets will need to be changed in order to avoid simply adding another level of bureaucracy or increase transaction costs in Tanzania.

56. A coherent and co-ordinated approach can create opportunities for implementation of national gender equality commitments by opening doors for concerted, system-wide support within the UN Country

Teams. However, the quality and depth of gender programming is dependent on the Development Assistance Framework. In addition, while government ownership may be strong, there is no systematic channel for the involvement of women's organisations.

Update on progress with establishing the UN gender equality entity

57. The initial lack of gender equality in the mandate of the High-Level Panel led to the idea of reforming the approach to gender equality and women's empowerment. There was broad acceptance of the need for such reforms during two informal consultations of the General Assembly in March and June 2007 and a concept paper was submitted to the General Assembly in August 2007. The new gender entity will bring together OSAGI, DAW, UNIFEM and INSTRAW. However, the consolidated entity will not replace the work of other specialised agencies, but each UN entity will be responsible for mainstreaming a gender perspective into its activities.

58. It was noted that the Nordic countries have worked together towards a new and strengthened UN architecture for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The group will continue to work together, alongside Ireland and Tanzania, who are facilitating the process of establishing a consolidated gender entity.

CLOSING SESSION: MOVING FORWARD - NEXT STEPS

Chairs: Ms Marcela Villarreal and Ms Dorthea Damkjaer

Panellists: Mr Richard Carey, Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD; **Mr George Carner**, DAC Delegate, United States; **Mr Mikael Hemnti-Winther**, Deputy Head of the Quality Assurance Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark; **Ms Elizabeth Longworth**, Executive Director of the Cabinet of the UNESCO Director General; **Mr Geert Deserranno**, Chair of the OECD DAC Working Party on Statistics; **Ms Ineke van de Pol**, Senior Gender Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands; **Ms Kemi Williams**, DfID, United Kingdom; **Ms Anna Fälth**, Gender and Economy Specialist, UNDP; and, **Ms Nicola Jones**, UNFPA, Tanzania.

59. *The objectives* of this inter-active panel discussion were to identify: key messages to take forward to the *Follow-up International Conference to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus* (Doha, 2008) and to the 2008 Commission on the Status of Women; opportunities for innovative partnerships in partner countries; ways of improving the measurement and tracking of aid focussed on gender equality and women's empowerment; and, improved division of labour.

Issues raised by the panel:

- Gender equality is essential for development - not only for moral but also for functional reasons
- Division of labour between donors is above all a question of trust
- Collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data is critical for establishing priorities and measuring results
- The World Bank Action Plan provides an opportunity for focussing on gender equality and women's empowerment in the economic sector and in analytical work. The performance of all actions covered by the Plan will be measured against a baseline.

... on ways of improving the measurement of aid focussed on gender equality and women's empowerment:

- The DAC gender equality policy marker system is emerging as one of the most effective tools to measure donor spending on gender equality and women's empowerment

- The suggestion that the DAC Working Party on Statistics and the GENDERNET will jointly explore whether guidelines could be developed for applying the DAC marker to general budget support and sectoral budget support will be presented to the WP-STAT. Gender advisors in bilateral agencies are encouraged to liaise with statistical colleagues beforehand.

... on entry points for promoting increased efforts and resources to enhance implementation of global political commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment:

- The Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness will provide opportunities to showcase initiatives on gender equality and aid effectiveness at the Roundtables, in the Marketplace, and in the agreed outcome document - the "Accra Agenda for Action"
- Elements of the *Paris Declaration* identified as particularly relevant for efforts to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment were *ownership* through assisting in building gender equality into partner countries' priorities and *results* by focussing on tracking impact
- Peer review mechanisms and assessments, such as the MOPAN survey, are essential to help bridge the policy to implementation gap on gender equality and women's empowerment
- Forming partnerships, including with the private sector, is a proven way of managing the complex aid system and accessing additional resources, and
- Initiatives such as the global MDG3 campaign strengthen political alliances and accelerate the momentum.

CLOSING REMARKS

60. The Chairs, Ms Marcela Villarreal and Ms Dorthea Damkjaer, closed the meeting by summarising the key conclusions. These are outlined on page 2.