DAC Network on Gender Equality

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY

19-21 May 2014
OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André-Pascal, 75016 Paris

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TWELFTH MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY
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SUMMARY RECORD

1. Opening session

1. The Chair of the DAC Network on Gender Equality, Melissa Stutsel (Australia), welcomed participants. The GENDERNET’s DAC facilitator, Dorothea Groth (Germany), introduced her role as facilitator. The summary record of the eleventh meeting of the Network (15-17 May 2013) [DCD/DAC/GEN/M(2013)1/PROV] was approved, and the draft annotated agenda of the twelfth meeting [DCD/DAC/GEN/A(2014)1/REV1] adopted.

2. Election of the Chair and Bureau

2. Brenda Killen (Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD) thanked Melissa Stutsel (Australia) for her contribution as Chair.

3. Carolina Wennerholm (Sweden) was elected as Chair of the Network. Sally Moyle (Australia) was elected as Bureau member. Unni Ramboll (Norway) and Saskia Ravesloot (Belgium) will remain as Bureau members. The new Chair and Bureau will take up their roles as of January 2015.

3. Influencing global processes to advance women’s rights

a) Introduction to the GENDERNET’s engagement with UN processes

4. Melissa Stutsel provided an overview of the GENDERNET’s engagement with UN processes over the last biennium. This includes a successful workshop on the post-2015 development agenda at the 11th meeting of the GENDERNET; and a joint workshop on this topic with the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) in November 2013. The GENDERNET Secretariat has also supported members to host informal meetings to prepare for the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

b) Reflections on the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Commission on Population and Development – and a look forward

5. Christine Schneeberger (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland), Stefan Kovacs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark), Moez Doraïd (UN Women), Nerea Craviotto (Association for Women’s Rights in Development), and Ros Ebdon (Department for International Development, United Kingdom) reflected on “lessons learned” from recent UN processes. The 58th session of the CSW (CSW58) ended successfully with agreed conclusions on “Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls”. These recognise the vital importance of gender equality for achieving sustainable development and call for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women’s rights and the integration of gender equality targets and indicators into all goals. Paragraph 28 identifies critical issues that were not adequately addressed by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), such as violence against women and unpaid care work. The paragraph provides a strong basis for pushing for these dimensions to be included in the post-2015 development agenda.
6. While the negotiation climate at CSW58 was more constructive than in previous years, there remained strong opposition from some conservative delegations to progressive language on women’s rights. Speakers and participants noted that tensions at the Third Committee of the 68th session of the UN General Assembly (October/November 2013) spilled over to the CSW. The disconnect between capitals and their diplomats in New York, and the influence of domestic political agendas on the negotiations, exacerbated the difficulties in reaching consensus. Of particular concern were the proposed “sovereignty paragraphs” which reaffirmed the sovereign right of each State to implement CSW recommendations in accordance with national legislation. These were removed from the final text but led to other important issues being traded away. Some speakers suggested that the consensus-based decision-making process of the CSW be discussed with a view to its potential reform. Others proposed adopting agreed conclusions only once every two years to allow for more substantive, less politicised policy discussions.

7. The 47th session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) focused on the “Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development”. Speakers and participants commented that the negotiations took place in an environment marked by polarisation, although a number of Southern countries played an important role as “bridge-builders”. Nonetheless, the CPD succeeded in the adoption of an outcome document that reaffirms the language of the Cairo Declaration and contains strong references to addressing gender-based violence and reforming discriminatory laws. No agreement was reached on other critical issues such as access to safe and legal abortion.

8. **GENDERNET members** shared lessons learned from the two processes and identified the following elements as key to success:
   - Early circulation of a strong, forward-looking zero draft.
   - A skilled facilitator, who creates a positive negotiation environment by engaging in extensive outreach and building trust with delegations from all regions.
   - Holding informal preparatory meetings of countries from the Western European and other States Group (WEOG) to develop joint priorities, messaging, counter-arguments and strategies.
   - Outreach and alliance building well ahead of negotiations, in particular with non-WEOG champions, to build cross-regional support.
   - Creating space for substantive discussions of the issues outside the negotiating room, for example through breakfast meetings.
   - Support to progressive civil society organisations, including women’s organisations, to lobby their governments.
   - Participation of Ministers and Permanent Representatives in the negotiations to generate momentum behind progressive positions, as was the case at the CSW58 with South Africa and Egypt.

9. While acknowledging the achievements made, GENDERNET members agreed that there is no room for complacency and called on countries to accelerate efforts to ensure that gender equality is front and centre of the post-2015 framework.

c) **Beijing+20 and ICPD Beyond 2014**

10. The 59th session of the CSW (March 2015) will review progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 20 years after its adoption. This will build on reviews conducted at national and regional levels. UN Women is launching a year-long campaign to commemorate Beijing+20 called “Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity” which will culminate in a high-level event at the UN General Assembly in September 2015.
11. To mark 20 years since the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the UN General Assembly will hold a special session on this topic on 22 September 2014. Member States are encouraged to be represented at the highest levels.

\textit{d) The post-2015 development framework}

\textbf{Part 1: Video-conference: The view from New York}

12. \textbf{Ambassador Ib Petersen} (Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations and co-facilitator, with Mr. Robert Guba Aisi, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea, of intergovernmental consultations to agree the modalities for the September 2015 summit which will adopt the post-2015 development agenda) and \textbf{Saraswathi Menon} (Director of Policy Division, UN Women) gave an “insider’s view” on the post-2015 process.

13. Major milestones in developing the post-2015 framework include:

- The 12\textsuperscript{th} (16-20 June) and 13\textsuperscript{th} (14-18 July) sessions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.
- The second meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, from 30 June to 9 July 2014.
- The presentation of the Open Working Group’s report on the SDGs and related targets to the UN General Assembly, September 2014.
- The report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing to the UN General Assembly, September 2014.
- Publication of the UN Secretary-General’s synthesis report before the end of 2014, which will consolidate the inputs from these different processes and will form the main basis for the intergovernmental negotiations.
- Intergovernmental negotiations, starting end of 2014/early 2015.
- Heads of State and Government Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, September 2015.
- The 21\textsuperscript{st} session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), November/December 2015.

These different work streams will need to come together to define one common post-2015 development agenda.

14. The speakers underlined the need for a universal and human rights-based post-2015 agenda that places a high priority on tackling inequalities and addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The agreed conclusions from CSW58 provide a useful foundation for pushing for a strong focus on the rights of women and girls.

15. While there is much political will around retaining a standalone goal on gender equality in the new post-2015 framework, further work is needed to ensure that the content of this goal is ambitious. There is strong support for targets in priority areas including: ending all forms of discrimination; eliminating violence against women; ensuring equal access to education at all levels; ensuring equal employment opportunities and equal pay for equal work; and achieving equal participation in decision-making in public and private institutions. However, four critical issues remain contentious, namely: (i) ensuring equal access to assets and productive resources, in particular inheritance rights; (ii) ending child, early and forced marriage; (iii) recognising, redistributing and reducing unpaid care; and (iv) realising sexual and reproductive health and rights.
16. Gender equality targets and indicators should be comprehensively integrated across the new framework – beyond sex-disaggregation. Indicators should be based on the minimum set of 52 gender equality indicators and nine indicators on violence against women that have been developed by the UN Statistical Commission. Challenges will include: (i) harmonising indicators; (ii) incorporating non-statistical indicators; (iii) building the capacity of national statistical agencies to collect and use data; and (iv) elaborating a robust monitoring and accountability framework.

17. Various tactics and strategies were highlighted as important in contributing to successful gender equality outcomes, including:
   - Focusing not only on which goals should be included in the new framework but also on the content of these goals by identifying strong targets and indicators.
   - Mobilising support behind the inclusion of gender equality targets in other goal areas.
   - Ensuring that discussions on the means of implementation integrate gender equality.
   - Intensifying cross-regional outreach, in particular by working with colleagues at the field level to engage G77 countries.

18. **GENDERNET members** urged UN Women to continue to push forward an ambitious, transformative agenda for women’s rights beyond 2015.

**Part 2: Working together to influence the post-2015 development agenda**

19. **Christine Schneeberger** (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland), **Kate Bishop** (Department for International Development, United Kingdom), and **Nerea Craviotto** (AWID) reflected on expectations and preparations for the next sessions of the Open Working Group and for the intergovernmental phase of the post-2015 process. They called for a universal and human rights-based post-2015 agenda which addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development – environmental, economic and social.

20. Speakers emphasised that the CSW58 agreed conclusions provide no guarantee that gender equality will be effectively addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. It is important to avoid overloading a standalone goal on gender equality. A dedicated goal should prioritise targets that will not be adequately addressed in other goals. Some speakers argued that “contentious” issues such as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) would be better placed under a health rather than a gender equality goal. Participants felt that it is essential to continue to push for a stronger focus on women’s rights.

21. **GENDERNET members** are encouraged to prepare for future milestones by:
   - Using the CSW58 agreed conclusions as a solid basis for pushing for gender equality to be included as a priority across the post-2015 framework;
   - Furthering collaboration and ensuring continued coordination of positions among WEOG countries and allies, including developing common strategies to deal with anticipated challenges in the intergovernmental stage, such as the introduction of “sovereignty paragraphs”;
   - Holding events in New York for diplomats who will negotiate the post-2015 agenda, hosted jointly by a country from the global North and South, to identify commonalities and build trust on gender equality issues before negotiations start;
   - Encouraging embassies to engage in extensive outreach at the field level;
   - Strategically using other fora – such as the G20 – to discuss gender equality issues.

22. It was suggested that GENDERNET members meet again before the formal start of the intergovernmental negotiations phase of the post-2015 process.
4. Our shared future: Workshop on adolescent girls

23. The objective of this workshop was to exchange experience and lessons learned on effective policy, programming and funding to support the empowerment of adolescent girls.

a) Setting the scene: Building a post-2015 world fit for young women and girls

24. Carolina Wennerholm (International Development Cooperation Agency, Sweden) set the scene by noting the increased political attention being paid to adolescent girls in international development following the 2010 UN Joint Statement on “Accelerating Efforts to Advance the Rights of Adolescent Girls” and the 45th session of the CPD which focused on “Adolescents and youth”. The UN understands adolescents to include persons aged 10-19 years; however there is no universally accepted definition.

25. Kate Wedgwood (Girl Hub, Rwanda) presented Girl Hub, a joint initiative between the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Nike Foundation to empower girls through the “Girl Effect”. The Girl Effect seeks to leverage the potential of adolescent girls as agents of change. In Rwanda, Girl Hub partners with leaders at national and local levels, including Rwandan President Paul Kagame, to encourage investments in favour of girls and increase their visibility on the political agenda. Girl Hub Rwanda has launched “Ni Nyampinga”, a youth brand consisting of a radio show and magazine designed to showcase positive role models for teenage girls.

26. The DFID-funded Voices for Change (V4C) programme was introduced by Caroline Enye (Voices for Change, Nigeria). Launched in 2013, the programme aims to enhance the enabling environment for adolescent girls and women in Nigeria. Rather than focusing on service delivery, the programme challenges discriminatory attitudes, norms, and legal frameworks through a fusion of social norms, marketing and communication strategies. This includes developing “Purple”, a lifestyle brand targeting young Nigerians through social networks which promotes gender-equitable norms. The programme also supports the creation of virtual and physical fora for networking and support as well as initiatives to reach out to influential figures in society, such as traditional, political and religious leaders. V4C recognises that major shifts in norms are unlikely to occur within the lifetime of the programme but aims to build the foundations for social change.

b) Lessons from policy and programming

i. Ensuring girls’ right to education

27. Since 2001, access to education in Afghanistan has increased with more than 7 million children currently enrolled country-wide, 39% of whom are girls. Stefan Kovacs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark) presented Danida’s initiatives to improve girls’ education in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. In Helmand, Denmark supports the construction of schools and dormitories, teacher training, textbooks, and the development of national unified curricula. The shortage of female teachers and the pervasive cultural bias against educating women are among the main challenges to girls’ education in the country.

28. In Nepal, a discriminatory practice known as the “Chhaupadi” prescribes that women must live in outdoor sheds away from their villages when menstruating, with serious consequences for their health and security. Girls also miss school when menstruating because of insufficient access to sanitary towels and inadequate toilet or washing facilities in schools. Sangita Khadka (Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist, Nepal) described how the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Western Nepal, launched with the support of Finland, is improving access to water and sanitation facilities, and
sanitary towels. The programme has launched media campaigns and engages with teachers and wider communities to end the stigma around menstruation.

29. Also speaking about the challenges of inadequate sanitary facilities in schools was **Lucie Bazinet** (Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada), who introduced the multi-country Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools for Girls (WinS for Girls) Programme. Led by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI), with the support of Canada, the programme aims to improve girls’ access to education and reduce gender gaps in completion rates for primary and secondary schooling through menstrual hygiene management. The initiative is challenging taboos around menstruation and changing norms and practices through the development of guidebooks and tools on the topic which will be distributed to schools, and through the promotion of national programmes for menstrual hygiene.

30. Switzerland’s programmes to empower adolescent girls in West Africa were presented by **Ursula Keller** (Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation). In Benin, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) is working to prevent school drop outs by targeting the root causes of the problem – girls’ responsibility for care work; early pregnancies; and violence – and improving young women’s access to employment and income-generating activities. The following factors are essential in supporting girls’ successful transition from school to the employment market:
   - Involvement of different sectors (education, governance, local economy);
   - Support for girls throughout the education cycle;
   - Improvement of community support structures;
   - Vocational training.

31. **GENDERNET members** emphasised the difficulty of challenging the stigma around menstruation. Successful transition from school to work was also recognised as a crucial issue for girls’ empowerment and participants underscored the need for vocational training tailored to local contexts to better equip girls for the labour market.

**ii. An end to violence**

32. **Carolina Wennerholm** (International Development Cooperation Agency, Sweden) introduced “Go Straight Home”, a short film highlighting obstacles to girls’ education in Bangladesh including the prevalence of sexual harassment, violence against girls on their way to and from school, and early and forced marriage.

33. **Jane Freedman** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) shared insights from UNESCO’s pilot project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to prevent gender-based violence through education. In Eastern DRC, teachers and students in education institutions work in collaboration with UNESCO to incorporate gender equality into school curricula and students are trained as ambassadors of violence prevention in their communities. Best practices include: (i) embedding gender-based violence within a broader curriculum on gender equality; (ii) building local ownership; (iii) ensuring sustainability by working through pre-existing structures; (iv) promoting participatory learning; (v) involving girls and boys; and (vi) adopting a community-wide approach.

34. Studies supported by Irish Aid shows that in Zambia, 54% of female students have experienced sexual violence on their journey to and from school, and in Sierra Leone two-thirds of girls have experienced sexual violence. **Edel Cribbin** (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Irish Aid) shared Irish Aid’s experience of tackling school-related violence. Lessons learned highlight the importance of multi-level, holistic approaches involving teachers, parents, households, and communities. Prevention and
response strategies need to include appropriate referral and support structures, codes of behaviour, training for teachers, and advocacy.

35. Participants shared further examples of work in this area. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is financing projects to prevent violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IDB is conducting impact evaluations on the cost-effectiveness of these programmes in Mexico City, El Salvador and Guatemala. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has launched a project with the Egyptian National Railway Company to improve the safety of public transport for women, following a study by UN Women which found that more than 80% of women have experienced harassment on public transport in Cairo. While recognising that girls can be especially vulnerable to violence in school settings, members underscored the important role that schools can play in addressing gender-based violence through prevention, awareness-raising and sensitisation activities.

iii. Eliminating early and forced marriage

36. Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) is both a human rights violation and a health issue. The World YWCA adopts a bottom-up approach in its advocacy, supporting young women to speak for themselves on advocacy platforms. Marcia Banasko (World YWCA) described how in Zambia, the World YWCA has launched a nation-wide campaign with support from the Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs, which has encouraged a number of chiefdoms to ban the practice. Awareness-raising and dialogue at the community level has proved most effective when combined with legislative measures, such as laws to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18, and appropriate support systems for survivors, such as shelters and legal services.

37. Christine Schneeberger (Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland) explained that the term “early marriage” is preferable to “child marriage” since it covers all people below the age of eighteen years, whereas the definition of a child varies from one jurisdiction to another – the Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as “every human being under the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”. There is growing momentum at the international level to end the practice of early and forced marriage. During its 24th session (September 2013), the Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted a landmark resolution on child, early and forced marriage which was co-sponsored by 110 Member States. This provided the impetus for the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a resolution on this topic (November 2013).

38. GENDERNET members were informed about the “Girl Summit 2014: A future free from female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage” which will take place in the United Kingdom on 22 July 2014, convened by the UK Prime Minister and UNICEF.

iv. Realising girls’ sexual and reproductive health and rights

39. Annelies Donners (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands) emphasised that sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is a priority for the Netherlands. The Dutch Ambassador for SRHR and HIV/AIDS conducts high-level advocacy and shares best practices with partner governments. An evaluation of Dutch support for SRHR from 2007-2012 reveals significant successes, even though inequalities in wealth and education continue to impede girls’ full access to SRHR. Dutch priorities for future work include: keeping SRHR on the agenda, in particular in the post-2015 context; coalition building and outreach; intensifying support for safe abortion; addressing inequalities in access to commodities and services; and identifying new channels of funding.
40. Sweden is supporting an UNFPA programme to empower indigenous and non-indigenous women and girls in Guatemala. SRHR are integrated in the programme as essential elements in enabling women and girls to make informed decisions about their lives and participate in decision-making. Carolina Wennerholm (International Development Cooperation Agency, Sweden) shared insights from the programme, which has demonstrated the positive impact of supporting empowerment at the individual and collective level; adopting a long-term perspective; partnering with and supporting women’s organisations; prioritising concerns that are most pertinent to the everyday lives of women and girls; co-ordinating with community level authorities; and ensuring support to women and girls who speak out about violence.

41. GENDERNET members stressed that information and education on SRHR need to be accompanied by improvements in access to appropriate and affordable services.

v. Empowering girls for a better future

42. The Pacific Young Women’s Leadership Strategy was introduced by Melissa Stutsel (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia). The strategy was launched following participatory consultations organised by the World YWCA with over 250 young women from six Pacific countries. The Pacific Young Women’s Leadership Alliance – established as a recommendation of the strategy – brings together organisations supporting women’s leadership in the region. The support provided includes advice, provision of facilities, and funding to attend conferences. The strategy has been successful in encouraging young women to raise their voices, engage in policy dialogue, and become leaders in their communities.

43. The World Bank’s Adolescent Girls Initiative is designed to support adolescent girls and young women to succeed in the labour market. The initiative, launched in 2008, has been piloted in eight countries and tailored to each context with varying emphasis on vocational training, empowerment and life skills. Sarah Nedolast (World Bank) presented results from an evaluation of the Initiative which reveals significant impact on employment and earnings for young women but mixed outcomes in relation to empowerment (measured for example by improvements in self-confidence or sexual and reproductive autonomy). The evaluation revealed the following elements as critical to girls’ successful transition from school to work:
   - In-depth understanding of the target group;
   - Involvement of community, parents and girls;
   - Support for “soft skills” such as self-confidence and leadership as well as “hard skills”;
   - Assistance to find a job placement following training;
   - Attention to institutional context and capacity.

44. Participants recognised the critical importance of supporting girls during the transition from school to the labour market. The Asian Development Bank, for example, is funding the “Skills for Employment Project” in Bangladesh which seeks to increase employment opportunities for young people through the provision of technical education and vocational training.

c) Closing plenary: pulling together the emerging threads from the workshop discussions

45. The Chair of the GENDERNET closed the workshop by noting that there are more than 1.5 billion young people in the world today, half of whom are girls. Approximately 600 million adolescent girls live in developing countries. Girls are critical agents for change who are contributing to building better futures for themselves, their communities and societies.
5. **Gender equality, women’s rights and effective development co-operation**

**a) The First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation – reflections and a look forward**

46. The objectives of this session were to: (i) provide an overview of the First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-Operation; (ii) increase understanding of the post-Busan global indicator on gender equality and share the findings of the post-Busan monitoring survey; and (iii) discuss initiatives to track resource allocation in support of gender equality.

47. **Jon Lomøy** (Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD) informed participants about the First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership which took place in Mexico City on 15-16 April 2014, bringing together over 1,500 participants from 152 countries. The meeting:

- Successfully positioned the Global Partnership as a unique space for multi-stakeholder dialogue on effective development co-operation;
- Proved the ongoing relevance of the Busan principles and spirit of inclusiveness, open discussion, knowledge exchange and sharing of lessons learned;
- Reaffirmed the DAC’s central role in ensuring the quality and quantity of aid for global development;
- Demonstrated the relevance of the Global Partnership as a driver of more effective development solutions, particularly in the post-2015 context.

The final communiqué of the meeting contains 38 voluntary initiatives which provide a valuable basis for future development cooperation and action.

48. Gender equality and women’s rights had a high profile at the Mexico meeting. **Patti O’Neill** (GENDERNET Secretariat, OECD) updated participants on the focus session in Mexico on *Gender equality: Delivering on the Busan commitments*, organised by the GENDERNET in partnership with UN Women and the Feminist Group of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness. The session was moderated by Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development of the United Kingdom and Co-Chair of the Global Partnership. Panellists included ministers from Nigeria, Sweden, Nepal and Finland, as well as senior officials from UN Women, the OECD and the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness.

49. The Mexico High-Level Meeting communiqué includes strong references to gender equality, and voluntary initiative 21 is also on this topic. The initiative focuses on encouraging transparency and accountability in financing for gender equality, including by increasing the number of countries engaged in monitoring of the post-Busan gender equality indicator. This indicator – which measures the “Proportion of developing countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment” – is one of only ten global indicators to track implementation of the Busan commitments. Of the 35 countries that have reported on the indicator, 12 have a system in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality, and 5 have a tracking system but allocations are not made public. Many of the countries without a system in place reported ongoing efforts to redress this.

50. From a civil society perspective, the communiqué is seen to represent a useful entry point for further policy dialogue on resource mobilisation for gender equality and women’s rights. However, as noted by **Nerea Craviotto** (AWID), it does not make reference to several important commitments made in Busan including: access and use of gender-disaggregated data; integration of targets for gender equality and women’s empowerment in accountability mechanisms; and addressing gender equality and women’s rights in all aspects of development including peacebuilding and statebuilding.
Ms. Craviotto encouraged further discussion on the Global Partnership’s added value in the post-2015 development agenda, particularly on issues such as South-South cooperation and private sector engagement in development.

51. **GENDERNET members** expressed support for efforts to scale up private financing for development while underlining the importance of private sector accountability. Engagement with Southern partners is critical to finding new innovative solutions to future development challenges, and the discussion on South-South cooperation needs to be pursued. The **United Kingdom** informed participants about DFID’s “leveraging initiative” which aims to leverage greater financing for gender equality beyond Official Development Assistance (ODA) through new strategic partnerships with the private sector and foundations.

**b) Tracking gender-responsive investments**

52. MDG 3 has proved catalytic in galvanising new resources for gender equality and women’s rights. Emily Esplen (GENDERNET Secretariat, OECD) shared the findings of two new OECD briefs on DAC donor financing for gender equality and women’s rights: *Aid in support of gender equality and women’s empowerment - donor charts*; and *Financing the unfinished business of gender equality and women’s rights: priorities for the post-2015 framework*. The data reveals that DAC members’ aid to gender equality has tripled since the MDGs from 8 billion dollars in 2002 to 24 billion in 2012 – an annual average growth rate of 12%. Despite the upward trend in aid focused on achieving gender equality, significant financing gaps remain in priority areas, including: SRHR; women’s economic empowerment; women, peace and security; and women’s participation and leadership. The development of a tool for tracking aid in support of violence against women and girls is a priority.

53. The Gender Equality Community of Practice (CoP) for Finance Ministers was introduced by Sarah Nedolast (World Bank). The CoP was created following a proposal by Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. The inaugural meeting took place in April 2014 and was co-chaired by the President of the World Bank and the Executive Director of UN Women. The CoP aims to: (i) promote financing for gender equality results; (ii) make national budgets more effective in supporting women and girls’ opportunities; (iii) promote learning and share innovative approaches; (iv) support the political momentum for gender equality goals in the post-2015 agenda and associated financial commitments. The CoP will be convened at ministerial level every six months.

54. AWID is developing a “FundHer Scorecard” to assess the quantity and quality of financing for women’s rights. Nerea Craviotto (AWID) described this new tool, which will include indicators on: (i) institutionalised commitment to gender equality and women’s rights; (ii) existence of systems to track funding for gender equality; (iii) long-term funding; (iv) funding in support of efforts to transform cultures of inequality; (v) funding to women’s organisations; and (vi) participatory agenda-setting, programme design and implementation.

55. **GENDERNET members** expressed support for the development of a tool to track spending commitments on violence against women and girls. Members were encouraged to move this proposal forward by referring it to the DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics during its next meeting scheduled for 16-17 September 2014. The annual resolution on *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*, which will be presented during the upcoming substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in July 2014, represents an opportunity for Member States to encourage the UN system to step up its use of gender markers.
6. Measuring changes in social norms and institutions

56. The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), presented by Keiko Nowacka (Development Centre, OECD), is an innovative measure of gender equality launched in 2009 by the OECD Development Centre. The index captures the underlying “drivers” of gender inequality. It is made up of 14 variables grouped into 5 categories: (i) discriminatory family code; (ii) restricted physical integrity; (iii) son bias; (iv) restricted access to land and assets; and (v) restricted civil liberties. The index is comprised of a Gender, Institutions and Development Database and detailed country profiles.

57. The SIGI is useful for comparing the level of gender discrimination between countries and regions over time. The SIGI results for 2014 will be launched in November. For the first time this will include data on OECD countries and indicators on time use. There are also plans to pilot the SIGI in Zambia, India and South Africa to improve understanding of discriminatory social institutions at the sub-national level. Members welcomed the SIGI as a useful tool to better understand the root causes of gender inequality.

58. Caroline Enye (Voices for Change, Nigeria) shared Voices for Change’s approach to measuring changes in social norms. V4C has designed a measurement tool to monitor progress towards the abandonment of discriminatory social norms, and assess the overall performance of the V4C programme. V4C has identified two principal pathways for behaviour change: (i) changes in attitudes preceding changes in practice/action; (ii) changes in attitudes following changes in practice/action. Measurement tools need to allow for both possibilities. V4C’s tool asks two principal questions: what do people typically do and what do people think it is appropriate to do? Data will be collected through household surveys and Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) surveys.

7. Using human rights mechanisms to advance women’s rights: insights from the CEDAW Committee

59. The work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee) was described by Bianca Pomeranzi (Member of the CEDAW Committee, Italy). The Committee monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It has a broad oversight function: reviewing the national reports submitted by States parties every four years on action taken to implement the provisions of the Convention; considering information and shadow reports from civil society organisations; and addressing its recommendations to States parties in the form of concluding observations. The Committee also formulates general recommendations on specific themes of the Convention.

60. Examples of successful engagement with governments include the withdrawal of Bangladesh’s reservations to articles on the right to family benefits and on rights and responsibilities with regard to children in 1997; and the adoption of Morocco’s new family code and the lifting of its reservations to articles on equal rights with respect to the nationality of children and on marriage and family relations in 2011. Lessons show that: (i) change is slow and often only observed over a number of reporting cycles; (ii) periodic reviews can act as a catalyst for reform of national laws; (iii) civil society organisations play an essential role in encouraging reforms and enhancing the impact of the reporting process; and (iv) concluding observations and general recommendations provide a useful entry point for policy dialogue with partner countries.

61. Nicole Ameline (Chairperson, CEDAW Committee) underscored the need to bridge the divide between international development and human rights constituencies. Now is a strategic moment for this: the UN General Assembly concluded the reform of the UN treaty body system in April 2014
which will increase the capacity and efficiency of the treaty bodies; and the post-2015 process represents an opportunity for placing human rights at the heart of the development agenda. The Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee participated in the eighth session of the OWG in February 2014, where she stressed the nexus between gender equality, women’s empowerment and development. The CEDAW Convention is a powerful instrument for advancing gender equality and women’s rights and could be developed into an online tool to facilitate its implementation and operationalisation at the field level. Development actors were encouraged to offer technical assistance to partner countries to support CEDAW implementation.

62. **GENDERNET members** paid tribute to the work of the CEDAW Committee. Periodic reports represent an opportunity to engage in a regular dialogue with national governments. Participants also acknowledged the need to increase the synergies between development and human rights and suggested that the CEDAW Committee adopts a general recommendation on gender equality in development cooperation.

8. **Looking ahead: priorities for the GENDERNET, 2015-16**

63. The DAC’s Programme and Work and Budget (PWB) for 2015-16 was introduced by **Dorothea Groth** (GENDERNET DAC facilitator). The GENDERNET’s work falls under the first priority area of the PWB which focuses on “shaping, implementing and monitoring a post-2015 sustainable development agenda”. The PWB refers to gender inequality as a key barrier to achieving sustainable and equitable development and calls for the systematic integration of gender equality across the DAC’s programme of work. The DAC will adopt a budget proposal which will be transferred to the OECD Council for final approval in September 2014. Members’ contributions to the budget of the DAC are crucial for the functioning of the DAC subsidiary bodies – including the GENDERNET – and should, if possible, be earmarked.

64. Over the next biennium, the GENDERNET will continue to focus on: (i) influencing global processes such as the post-2015 development agenda and the CSW to ensure that gender equality remains a global priority; (ii) supporting mutual learning, accountability and partnerships to improve development impact with regards to gender equality and women’s rights; and (iii) integrating gender equality into DAC priority areas (development effectiveness, analysis of aid statistics, and peer reviews).

65. **Patti O’Neill** (GENDERNET Secretariat) updated members on the implementation of the GENDERNET’s current work programme. Main achievements include:

- Influencing the post-2015 development agenda in particular through the organisation of a successful joint workshop with the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) in November 2013.
- Co-ordinating and supporting members’ efforts to prepare for CSW57 and 58.
- Supporting implementation of the post-Busan global indicator on gender equality.
- Ensuring that gender quality and women’s rights had a visible profile at the First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation through the organisation of a focus session and agreement on strong language on gender equality in the final communiqué.
- Disseminating accessible papers and analytical studies on aid focused on gender equality to inform members’ policy work.
- Publication of a new report on donor practices on gender equality and women’s rights – *From ambitions to results: Delivering on gender equality in donor institutions* – which was based on a survey of DAC members’ development co-operation ministries, departments and agencies in 2013.
9. Hearing from the multilaterals: updates and future directions

66. **Samina Anwar** and **Katherine Gifford** (UN Women) shared UN Women’s experience of supporting partner countries to strengthen gender-responsive public financial management. UN Women assists governments in designing gender-responsive budgets, such as in Nepal and Ecuador where the introduction of tracking systems has led to a significant increase in funding for gender equality. The results of the post-Busan gender equality indicator suggest a growing commitment from governments to tracking allocations in support of gender equality. However, further efforts are required to ensure the systematic collection and use of sex-disaggregated data and to assess the impact of government expenditure on women and girls. Lessons learned include: (i) tracking systems need to be regularly reviewed and refined; (ii) strengthening accountability by making allocations public provides a powerful incentive for governments to increase gender-responsive investments; (iii) strategic partnerships between donors, multilateral agencies and ministries of finance should be encouraged; (iv) civil society participation is critical to holding governments accountable.

67. Upcoming intergovernmental processes – post-2015, Beijing+20, and COP 21 – constitute a once-in-a-generation opportunity to advance gender equality. **Moez Doraid** (UN Women) stressed that UN Women would welcome the support of GENDERNET members in the preparation of the 59th session of the CSW (March 2015). This collaboration could take various forms including support for the organisation of regional review meetings undertaken by UN regional commissions; and provision of technical advice and data to ensure the quality of the reviews. UN Women’s priorities as outlined in its Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 are: (i) ending violence against women; (ii) women’s economic empowerment; (iii) women, peace and security; (iv) women’s leadership and participation; and (v) gender-responsive budgeting. It was noted that significant financing gaps remain in these areas.

68. **Sarah Nedolast** (World Bank) introduced recent publications by the World Bank, including the *Voice and Agency* and *Gender at Work* reports. The World Bank has launched enGENDER IMPACT, a database compiling information about gender-related impact evaluations led or supported by the World Bank. This tool is intended to increase knowledge sharing and improve gender impact assessments. The World Bank is also finalising a gender-based violence (GBV) toolkit to provide guidance on integrating GBV into projects in various sectors, to be launched in June 2014. Other initiatives include the Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality, which was established in 2012 as a multi-donor trust fund channelling World Bank resources for gender equality. Future priorities for the World Bank include: (i) strengthening gender equality data; (ii) working with UN Women to pilot data collection on the violence against women indicators developed by the UN Statistics Division; and (iii) furthering engagement with the private sector.

69. The Strategic Gender Initiative adopted in 2013 by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was presented by **Elena Ferreras Carreras** (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development). This sets out the framework for the EBRD’s approach to gender equality, identifying three priorities: access to finance; access to employment and skills; and access to services. The EBRD promotes gender equality in the labour market by improving women’s access to finance; helping clients make the most of their workforce by investing in diversity; and introducing a gender equality perspective in municipal and environmental infrastructure projects. The EBRD organises training for staff members and clients, develops tools, and issues sector-specific guidance notes on gender equality.
10. Close of the GENDERNET meeting

70. Carolina Wennerholm invited members to stay mobilised in the months leading up to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and to continue to push for gender equality to be front and centre. Ms. Wennerholm thanked members for sharing such innovative examples of their work to empower adolescent girls and reiterated the importance of placing girls at the heart of development programmes.
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12th Meeting

19/5/2014 - 21/5/2014

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