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DAC Network on Gender Equality

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY, 15-17 MAY 2013

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**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY
OECD HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, 15-17 MAY 2013**

SUMMARY RECORD

1. Opening session

1. The Co-chairs **Áine Doody** (Ireland) and **Melissa Stutsel** (Australia) welcomed participants. The summary record of the tenth meeting of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (13-15 June 2012) [DCD/DAC/GEN/M(2012)1/PROV] was approved, and the draft annotated agenda of the eleventh meeting [DCD/DAC/GEN/A(2013)1/REV1] adopted.

2. Election of the Chair and Bureau, 2014

2. **Jon Lomøy** (Director, Development Co-operation Directorate) thanked **Áine Doody** (Ireland) and **Pauline Chabbert** (France) for their contributions as Co-chair and Bureau member respectively.

3. **Melissa Stutsel** (Australia) was elected as Chair of the Network. **Saskia Ravesloot** (Belgium) and **Carolina Wennerholm** (Sweden) were elected as Bureau members for 2014.

3. The OECD Development Assistance Committee and the Network

4. **Erik Solheim** (Chair, Development Assistance Committee) highlighted the role and contribution of women as integral to the emerging development priorities of the DAC, which include: linking the environment and development agendas; fragile states; development finance for the future; and, eradicating absolute poverty. The post-2015 development agenda should focus on the poorest people, the majority of whom are women.

5. The GENDERNET's DAC Facilitator, **Steve Pierce** (United States), welcomed the Network's recent success in influencing global processes such as the Global Partnership, the sixteenth and seventeenth replenishments of the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA), and the 2013 UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

6. **Áine Doody** introduced the priority areas of work of the Network: engagement with the DAC's core activities (aid effectiveness, peer reviews, statistics), women's economic empowerment, and influencing the post-2015 framework and other global processes.

**4. Addressing gender equality and women's empowerment in a changing environment
– What works? The GENDERNET study on donor approaches**

7. This session analysed trends in donor approaches to addressing gender equality and women's empowerment in development co-operation. Discussions were informed by initial findings from the survey of GENDERNET members, and members' knowledge of innovative practices and "what works" in achieving gender equality.

8. **Jenny Hedman** (GENDERNET Secretariat) shared the findings emerging from the forthcoming study on donor approaches to gender equality and women's empowerment. Based on a detailed survey of DAC members, the study will look at what has changed in recent years and identify effective approaches to strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment.

9. Twenty-three DAC members had replied to the questionnaire (29 institutions), highlighting several positive trends: the policy focus on gender equality has increased and many DAC institutions report an increase in staff working on gender equality. Trends in financial resources for gender equality are largely positive, with one-third of DAC countries' aid targeting gender equality. Around half of DAC members reported an increase in their total spending on gender equality in recent years.

10. Members perceive the aid/development effectiveness agenda as helpful - particularly the focus on "results", which provides new entry points and accountability mechanisms for strengthening work on gender equality. At the same time, there is scope to improve gender equality targets and indicators in results frameworks.

11. **GENDERNET members** emphasised the need to strengthen accountability frameworks to address the gap between policies and implementation.

a) Getting organised to support gender equality - the institutional level

12. **Marie Powell** (Canada) and **Shireen Lateef** (Asian Development Bank) presented case studies of institutional efforts to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

13. CIDA's Gender Equality Action Plan has re-vitalised senior management commitment to gender equality and spurred increased dialogue on gender equality within the agency. Several factors were central to its success: the participatory manner in which the Action Plan was developed, which enabled broad ownership across the institution; periodic progress briefings for senior management; avoiding 'naming and shaming'; using a devolved accountability structure; and building the Action Plan into existing internal reporting processes.

14. At the ADB, gender equality is front and centre of the corporate strategy and results framework. All ADB projects must undertake gender analysis and include performance indicators on gender equality. This is reinforced by the gender equality and women's empowerment results framework (2013-16). The ADB's approach is unique in that it focuses on gender equality *outputs and outcomes* rather than policy commitments.

15. **Prudence Woodford-Berger** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden) shared her insights on what it takes to be an effective gender equality advisor - taking care to *listen*; not overlooking those who are potential, undecided or silent supporters of gender equality; establishing contacts with colleagues who are experts in other fields; and adopting a long-term perspective.

16. **GENDERNET members** emphasised the importance of strong internal leadership of gender equality. Members were interested in good practice on measuring gender equality outcomes and noted the challenges of measuring long-term processes such as changes in attitudes and behaviour.

b) Effective gender equality programming - implementation

17. **Björg Skotnes** (Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation) described Norad's efforts to mainstream gender equality at the country level through tailor-made support to missions to address gender equality in key sectors. Norad has also established pilot embassies which report on gender equality results from policy dialogue and other initiatives. This has led to an increase in gender equality spending in pilot embassies. Pilots have generated lessons about ways of working and reporting on gender equality that will now be applied across all embassies.

18. **Saskia Ravesloot** (Belgium) reflected on Belgium's experience of conducting policy dialogue on gender equality in the agriculture and health sectors in Benin. Efforts were made to ensure harmonisation and to align with national strategies, although this was challenging because of the breadth of national plans and policies, which were not always coherent.

19. **Marijke Wijnroks** (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and **Srilatha Batliwala** (Association of Women's Rights in Development, AWID) described innovative features of the Dutch MDG3 and Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) funds. These funds have provided flexible, multi-year core funding and have extensive reach to women's organisations, networks and movements. AWID's independent assessment of the aggregate impact of the MDG3 Fund - "Women Moving Mountains" - revealed that the MDG3 Fund reached almost 225 million people; provided tools and skills to activists; built the capacity of women's organisations; and influenced governments and human rights institutions and mechanisms. These achievements were possible because of the flexible, core and long-term (3 years) nature of the grants, and the broad range of strategies deployed by grantees. The funds demonstrate that small amounts of funding to women's organisations can have significant impact.

c) Measuring aid to gender equality

20. **Patti O'Neill** (GENDERNET Secretariat) provided an overview of findings from the GENDERNET's analytical studies on DAC members' aid to gender equality. DAC members' aid flows in support of gender equality and women's empowerment averaged USD 20.5 billion per year in 2010-11. This represents approximately 32% of total bilateral aid allocated by sector. Bilateral aid targeting gender equality is concentrated in the social sectors, reflecting MDG priorities. Efforts to support gender equality in the economic and productive sectors need to be intensified, including through a high priority on women's economic empowerment in the post-2015 framework.

21. **Aimee Nichols** and **Olivier Bouret** (Statistics and Development Finance Division, DCD) informed members of a set of new and forthcoming features:

- a new statistical marker will be introduced in 2014 to measure aid to reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH)
- a purpose code is being considered to track DAC members' aid flows for tackling violence against women. This would be technically possible but a decision needs to be taken by the DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT). *GENDERNET members should follow up with WP-STAT colleagues within their agencies.*
- the FAQ for applying the DAC gender equality policy marker will be further developed to assist DAC members in their reporting

- an online dataset on aid in support of gender equality and women's empowerment is now publicly available at <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=GENDER>.

22. **GENDERNET members** discussed reasons for low levels of investment by donors on gender equality in the economic and productive sectors. The lack of serious impact evaluations has resulted in limited evidence of 'what works' in relation to women's economic empowerment. Members were supportive of a new statistical purpose code on aid to combat violence against women.

5. Reflections on UN processes - and a look forward

a) Feedback on the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

23. **Moez Doraid** (Director, Coordination Division, UN Women) underscored the significance of the 2013 CSW agreed conclusions, which set out 69 actions to eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against women and girls. UN Women will work with partners to implement the agreed conclusions at the country level.

24. **Stefan Kovacs** (Senior Adviser, Denmark) emphasised the GENDERNET Secretariat's role in providing support for preparatory meetings in the United Kingdom, Denmark and France, which paved the way for a successful CSW outcome. These meetings enabled GENDERNET members to work together to identify allies, strategies and opportunities to ensure a good outcome from CSW 57.

25. **GENDERNET members** unanimously commended UN Women for its role in the achievement of strong, forward-looking agreed conclusions.

b) UN Women: progress and priorities

26. **Moez Doraid** (UN Women) summarised UN Women's priorities: updating their strategic plan; strengthening their results frameworks; and, working to ensure alignment with the strategic plans of other UN agencies. UN Women continues to face major funding shortfalls, as political support for their work has not been matched by financial contributions.

27. **Participants** encouraged UN Women to strengthen its operational support at the country level, in addition to supporting normative intergovernmental processes.

6. Workshop on the unfinished business of the MDGs and gender equality and women's rights in the post-2015 development agenda

Session 1: Setting the scene - introducing the roadmap for the post-2015 process

28. **Tracy Vaughan Gough** (Gender Policy Advisor, UNDP Team on Post-2015, One Secretariat) outlined the UN system and intergovernmental processes that are shaping the post-2015 development agenda. The post-Rio intergovernmental processes will be particularly influential, notably:

- i) the **Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, representing 70 Member States who share 30 seats, co-chaired by Kenya and Hungary. The Open Working Group will report on the SDGs during the 68th session of the General Assembly in mid-2014. Gender equality will be addressed in the eighth session (3-7 February 2014).

ii) the **Expert Committee on Financing for Sustainable Development**, chaired by Norway and Kazakhstan, which will propose options for a sustainable development financing strategy by end 2014.

iii) the **High-Level Political Forum**, chaired by Brazil and Italy, which is mandated to follow up on the implementation of the sustainable development goals once they have been agreed.

29. Recent and future milestones in developing the post-2015 framework include:

- The **High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**, which concluded its report at the end of May 2013: *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*. This proposes an illustrative standalone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment, with national targets on: preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls; ending early marriage; ensuring equal right of women to own and inherit property and other assets; and, eliminating discrimination against women in political, economic and public life. The report further recommends the integration of gender-specific targets and indicators across the other goals.

- The **Report of the UN Secretary General** on "Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015", expected July 2013.

- The **UN General Assembly (UNGA) special event on 25 September 2013**, facilitated by the UN Permanent Representatives of Ireland and South Africa, which will focus on accelerating progress to the MDGs. The United States and United Kingdom are organising an MDG "countdown" event for the UNGA, focusing on gender gaps.

- **Global Consultations**, facilitated by the UN Development Group, have been held with 88 national consultations, a regional component, and 11 thematic consultations, including one on addressing inequalities. An initial report from the consultations - *The Global Conversation Begins* - was released in March 2013 and a second report is expected in mid-2013 to contribute to the UN Secretary General's report.

- The **eighth session of the Open Working Group** on "Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment" (3-7 February 2014)

- The **fifty-eighth session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women** on "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls" (March 2014).

30. Further contributions which will inform the UN system and intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 framework include: i) the report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda: *Realising the Future We Want for All*; ii) the report of the UN Regional Commissions: *A Regional Perspective on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda*; iii) the report of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network: *An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development*; iv) the UN Global Compact, which facilitates input from businesses and the private sector into the post-2015 process; and, v) a global online outreach survey "My World", available at <http://www.myworld2015.org>.

31. **UN Women** has a leading role to play in ensuring that gender equality and women's rights are central to the post-2015 agenda. UN Women is calling for a strong, standalone goal on gender equality comprising three key components: freedom from violence, gender equality in capabilities and resources, and gender equality in decision-making, power and voice in public and private institutions. A standalone goal is needed alongside the integration of gender equality targets and indicators. UN Women is also

emphasising the need for a universal, holistic, and transformative post-2015 agenda, which fosters accountability and transparency so that citizens and civil society can hold decision-makers accountable.

32. **Participants** welcomed the inclusive nature of the post-2015 process and expressed their support for a ‘twin-track’ approach to gender equality. However, they warned against overburdening the standalone gender equality goal. The post-2015 goals need to be ambitious and inspirational, but also coherent and simple. **The on-going discussions will need to determine which targets should be included under a standalone gender equality goal, and which should be mainstreamed across the framework.**

Session 2: What have we learned from the Millennium Development Goals and from MDG3 and what remains to be done over the next two years?

33. In this session, presentations from **Mayra Moro-Coco** (Development Policy and Advocacy Manager, AWID), **Melissa Stutsel** (Director, Gender Equality Policy Section, AusAID), **Moez Doraïd** (UN Women), and **Somali Cerise** (Gender Project Coordinator, OECD Development Centre) reflected on the weaknesses and strengths of the MDGs, and identified lessons to accelerate progress to 2015 and beyond.

34. **Speakers** acknowledged the shortcomings of the MDGs - notably the omission of key gender inequalities such as gender-based violence, and the failure to challenge the structural causes of poverty and inequality. The framework overlooks the impact of macroeconomic and financial policies on the achievement of the goals. Its focus on national and global targets also masks growing disparities at the sub-national level.

35. **Panellists** agreed that much remains to be done, particularly in the areas of women’s employment, political participation, poverty, asset ownership, unequal responsibility for unpaid care work, and gender-based violence. Accelerating progress to 2015 will require a focus on the most excluded and marginalised people, and on reforming discriminatory laws and practices, and ensuring gender-sensitive social protection and service delivery.

36. The post-2015 development agenda will need to confront the structural drivers of gender inequality, such as violence against women and women’s lack of decision-making power in the family, and the discriminatory social norms and institutions that underpin these inequalities. This is supported by findings from the OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) research, which shows that child health outcomes are strongly related to women’s control over their bodies and access to resources; violence against women has a significant adverse impact on maternal mortality; and, higher levels of discrimination in the family lead to greater representation of women in vulnerable employment. In addition, significantly more children finish primary school in countries where women have greater decision-making power in the family.

37. **Members** were optimistic that a strong focus on gender equality in the post-2015 framework would create increased demand for data, but warned of the weaknesses of statistical capacity at the country level, and stressed the need to use existing data where possible so as not to overburden data collection processes. Participants emphasised that gender equality is not only about closing gaps between women and men; it is also about how women’s agency can play a role in changing the ‘rules of the game’.

Session 3: The emerging priority areas for gender equality and women's rights in the post-2015 development agenda

38. Five areas that are priorities for the post-2015 framework because of their catalytic impact on achieving gender equality and women's rights are: girls' completion of a quality post-primary education; eliminating violence against women and girls; advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights; women's economic empowerment; and, women's leadership, voice and influence. See [Unfinished Business – Women and girls front and centre beyond 2015](#) (OECD DAC GENDERNET, May 2013). In this session, members reflected on targets and indicators to measure progress in each of these areas.

a) Girls' completion of a quality post-primary education

39. **Michael Ward** (Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate) noted that, despite progress on eliminating gender gaps in primary education enrolments, MDG targets on education will not be achieved. Globally, poverty and discrimination continue to have a detrimental effect on girls' school attendance, particularly for adolescent girls. Violence in schools, early marriage, pregnancy and domestic and care work constitute significant barriers to girls' education around the world. **Expanding access to secondary education for girls and focusing on learning outcomes should be central to the new post-2015 development agenda.** The OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) could assist in measuring progress towards learning outcomes for girls and boys.

40. **Caren Grown** (Senior Gender Advisor, USAID) emphasised the importance of going beyond parity to measure *absolute achievement*, and underscored the need to incentivise and track progress for the hardest to reach people through the inclusion of metrics that go beyond gender and age. Ms. Grown proposed educational targets focusing on: girls' learning outcomes in reading, maths and sciences; the *quality* of education; and, removing gender biases in curricula. She proposed the following indicator:

- Completion of basic and secondary education

b) Violence against women and girls

41. **Áine Doody** (Gender Advisor, Irish Aid) spoke in favour of an indicator on violence against women and girls under a standalone gender equality goal, with a focus on service provision, legislative reform, and behaviour and attitudinal change. Investment is also needed to improve data collection and effective tracking of expenditures on violence against women and girls.

42. **Caren Grown** (Senior Gender Advisor, USAID) informed participants that data on the prevalence of intimate partner violence now exists for more than 95 countries. The World Bank – International Finance Cooperation's (IFC) Women, Business and Law database is also being expanded to include violence against women. She proposed the following targets and indicators:

Potential target:

- *% reduction from initial levels over a time-bound period* (which may need to be nationally set)

Potential indicators:

- *Proportion of women over 15 years old who have been subjected to physical or sexual violence in the past twelve months*
- *Acceptability of violence against women* (for example, based on the World Values Survey data)
- *% of women who make use of public services*

[Secretariat note: Any post-2015 goal on peace, conflict and security - such as the illustrative goal proposed by the High Level Panel on Post-2015: “ensure stable and peaceful societies” - will also need to address gender inequality, women’s participation in peace-building and gender-based violence. Gender equality is not currently integrated into the targets proposed by the High Level Panel under this goal].

c) Sexual and reproductive health and rights

43. **Stefan Kovacs** (Senior Adviser, Denmark) shared a key finding from the February 2013 *Leadership Meeting on Addressing Inequalities in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, co-hosted by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Women and the Governments of Denmark and Ghana. This emphasised that “investing in women and girls and ensuring their equal rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, is a fast track to development and inclusive economic growth.”

44. **Caren Grown** (Senior Gender Advisor, USAID) called for strategic reflection on which gender-specific targets might be included under a health - rather than a gender equality - goal. She proposed the following indicators:

- **Share of population living with HIV/AIDS, by sex and age**
- **Maternal mortality ratio**
- **Contraceptive demand satisfied**
- **Unmet need for family planning**
- **Adolescent fertility rate**

Data on the last three indicators are particularly widely validated and available.

45. **Participants** emphasised that targets and indicators on sexual and reproductive health and rights will need to be anchored in already agreed language and commitments such as ICPD (International Conference on Population and Development) and the CSW.

d) Women’s economic empowerment

46. **Marie Powell** (Senior Policy Analyst on Gender Equality, CIDA) identified three key elements of women’s economic empowerment which should be included in the post-2015 development agenda: i) increasing women’s ownership, control and access to land, property, inheritance, assets and productive resources; ii) removing barriers to women’s participation in the economy, improving productivity and closing wage gaps; and, iii) strengthening women’s agency, leadership and economic decision-making.

47. **Caren Grown** (Senior Gender Advisor, USAID) outlined potential indicators in this area:

- **Vulnerable employment, by sex and age**
- **Unexplained wage gaps** - an interesting indicator for a universal framework in light of the global nature of gender wage gaps. Data exists in the manufacturing sector but is weak in others
- **Occupational segregation**
- **Income** (this indicator could be included under a poverty goal)
- **Gender asset gaps** (i.e. the proportion of women who own land, housing, businesses and other real estate compared with the proportion of men)
- **Gender wealth gaps** (i.e. the value of the assets owned by women compared with men)
- **Time-use** – although data tends to only be available for specific geographical areas

48. **Participants** expressed concern about the lack of data and attention to women's rights and gender equality in the economic and productive sectors. Investment in building statistical capacity to collect individual level asset data and improve the availability of time-use data is a priority moving forwards.

e) Women's leadership, voice and influence

49. **Jeni Klugman** (Director, Gender and Development, World Bank) emphasised the limited nature of indicators on women's participation in national parliaments, top management, business boards and ministerial positions, which show a strong elite bias. The post-2015 framework will need to go beyond these measures to include an assessment of women's decision-making power, influence and voice at household and local levels. Current data show that women lack decision-making power in their homes. For example, in low-income countries, around 40% of married women do not have a say in major household purchases, nearly 50% believe it is justifiable for them to be beaten, and 40% report having no say over their own health care.

50. **Caren Grown** (Senior Gender Advisor, USAID) identified the lack of global and local data on women's leadership, voice and influence as a major obstacle to progress in this area. She suggested that donors pool resources over the next two years to build a baseline from a sample of representative countries on women's leadership and participation in institutions such as the judiciary, legislature, the executive, and the security apparatus. To be useful, measures of decision-making need to pay heed to social norms. For example, an indicator on "women's say in household purchases" is a poor measure of empowerment because, in many countries, social norms dictate that it is women's responsibility to purchase small household items.

51. **Participants** identified two priority areas where further work is needed to develop meaningful indicators:

- i) women's leadership and voice at the local level**
- ii) strength of activism.**

Session 4: Assessing the MDGs and the Post-2015 development agenda – the view from New York (by videoconference)

52. **Ambassador Anne Anderson** (Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and facilitator, with South Africa, for the 25 September special event at the 2013 UN General Assembly) and **John Hendra** (Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director Policy and Programme, UN Women) shared their insights on the intergovernmental process and preparations in place for the 25 September special event of the UNGA. Discussions on the shape of the UNGA outcome document are underway, although it has not yet been decided whether it will be a light document or a densely negotiated intergovernmental text. The focus will be on accelerating progress towards the MDGs. The document will also include a roadmap for 2013-15 and maybe some indication on substance.

53. Of particular note for GENDERNET members was the significance placed on the Open Working Group as 'the only game in town.' Maintaining strong support for a standalone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment throughout these discussions will be critical. The eighth session on "Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment" (3-7 February 2014) provides a key opportunity. However, it is also vital to integrate gender equality into the other thematic sessions and ensure that gender equality is central to both the development and environment agendas.

Areas for action and further reflection

- i) UN Women has a key role to play in ensuring that gender equality and women's rights are adequately addressed throughout the new framework. GENDERNET members should consider financing UN Women's role in this process and seconding senior staff to UN Women to increase technical capacity, particularly specialists in the area of sustainable development.
- ii) Civil society organisations, especially southern women's organisations, have a crucial role to play in lobbying their governments for a focus on gender equality in the post-2015 framework. UNDP are keen to support CSO engagement in the post-2015 processes, particularly the Open Working Group. However, resources are needed to support this.
- iii) Strong proposals must be developed for mainstreaming gender equality in the other development goals, in particular: energy and environmental sustainability, fragile and conflict-affected states, and peace and security.
- iv) Further thinking is needed on a) which targets must be included under a standalone gender equality goal and which should be mainstreamed to achieve other development goals; and b) financing the SDGs.

Next immediate milestones for GENDERNET members:

- i) The special event of the UNGA facilitated by the UN Permanent Representatives of Ireland and South Africa on **25 September 2013**.
- ii) The joint GENDERNET workshop with the UN's Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) on **6-7 November 2013**. The workshop will focus on the *unfinished business* of the MDGs as a contribution to the priority theme of the 2014 CSW, and on strategising on the evolving political and substantive discussions around the post-2015 development framework.

54. **GENDERNET members** encouraged the Secretariat to undertake a mapping of each agency's current engagement in post-2015 processes, and plans for participation in forthcoming events. A message was sent to all members on 27 May 2013.

7. Effective development co-operation***a) The Global Partnership and monitoring framework***

55. **Robin Ogilvy** (Secretariat of the Global Partnership) introduced the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation - an inclusive political forum that brings together countries and organisations from around the world that are committed to strengthening the effectiveness of development co-operation. The Global Partnership is about the "how to" of development cooperation. It acts as a mechanism to promote learning and accountability, and help achieve sustainable development results by focussing on concrete actions at the country-level.

56. Ministerial meetings will take place every 18-24 months to review progress and ensure accountability, with Steering Committee meetings every 6-12 months - supported by a joint OECD-UNDP team. The third meeting of the Global Partnership Steering Committee will take place on 25-26 July 2013 in Addis Ababa. The first ministerial meeting is planned for end 2013/early 2014.

57. The global monitoring framework of the Global Partnership tracks progress on the commitments agreed in 2011 at the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea. The framework has ten indicators for measuring progress to improve the effectiveness of development co-operation in specific areas, such as the transparency and predictability of aid, the contribution of the private sector to development, and gender equality.

b) The global monitoring framework indicator on gender equality

58. **Moez Doraid** (UN Women) updated participants on the global monitoring indicator on gender equality, which measures the number of countries with **a system in place to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment**. The indicator is an entry point for ensuring that resource allocations are gender-responsive and benefit women and men equally (Busan Partnership agreement, paragraph 20).

59. UN Women and the OECD Secretariat have supported efforts to define a methodology and set of criteria to assess progress on this indicator, which has been field-tested in 15 developing countries. UN Women will support the monitoring process by rolling out the indicator in 20 countries in 2013, aiming to cover 40 UN Women programme countries by 2017. However, all countries - whether a UN Women programming country or not - are invited to participate in the monitoring survey.

c) Busan Joint Action Plan for Gender Equality and Development

60. **Jenny Hedman** (GENDERNET Secretariat) highlighted the *Busan Joint Action Plan for Gender Equality and Development* - a voluntary coalition that came out of Busan, which aims to build momentum for implementing commitments to gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights. The Plan has been successful in integrating targets for gender equality into the global monitoring framework. The Evidence and Data for Gender Equality (EDGE) initiative represents another key element of the Plan and aims to improve the availability and use of statistics that capture gender gaps in economic activity.

d) The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness

61. **Mayra Moro-Coco** (AWID) described the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) - a new platform that represents CSO diversity, works to strengthen national and sub-regional platforms, and defines channels for CSO representation, engagement and monitoring of the Global Partnership. CPDE is a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership and advocates for a rights-based approach to development co-operation, democratic ownership, an enabling environment for civil society, and accountability across the board.

62. **Participants** welcomed the indicator on gender equality in the monitoring framework and enquired about linkages between the Global Partnership and the post-2015 development framework.

8. A roadmap for women's economic empowerment

a) Consultation and information exchange with the World Bank

63. Negotiations on the **17th replenishment (IDA 17) of the World Bank's International Development Association** fund for the poorest countries are underway. Gender equality will be a special theme of IDA 17 for the period of 2014-17, along with climate change, fragile states, and inclusive growth. This builds on the success of IDA 16 which, for the first time, focussed on gender equality as a priority.

64. A **companion report to the World Development Report 2013** is being produced on gender and jobs. A new report is also planned on women's *Voice, Agency and Participation*, focusing on: freedom from the risk of violence, access to and control over property, freedom of movement, decision-making over family formation, and ability to have voice in society and influence policy. The report will be launched in April 2014.

65. The Bank is increasing **investment in evidence and data**, and has launched a new Gender Data Portal: <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/>.

66. **Participants** welcomed the sustained focus on gender equality by IDA 17 and commended the World Bank for their lead in building the evidence-base on women's voice, agency and participation. Participants proposed broadening the definition of assets to include environmental assets and public goods. They also emphasised the need to be cautious of the backlash that can follow increasing visibility of women in public life and suggested indicators to monitor such backlash, such as legal regression, increasing violence against women, and restrictions on mobility.

b) Increasing productivity and earnings for women in developing countries: a review of what works, for whom and where

67. **Mayra Buvinic** (Senior Fellow, UN Foundation) introduced findings from the Roadmap for Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative, a collaboration between the UN Foundation and ExxonMobil Foundation. The initiative reviews evaluations of interventions to increase women's productivity and earnings in the areas of: agriculture, entrepreneurship, wage employment, and youth employment.

68. The Roadmap Initiative has shown that microfinance alone is not sufficient to grow the businesses of very poor women. However, a relatively large capital transfer, if paired with income generation training and follow-up technical visits, can transform the occupational choices of very poor women. Business training alone does not result in the growth of women-owned businesses, however the impact can be improved by increasing the quality and duration of the training, combining training with expert business advice, and targeting women running larger firms. Savings accounts are particularly important in increasing women's business earnings.

69. Other findings include: formal ownership and control over farm land improves women's productivity and economic security; farmer groups and collectives can strengthen access to markets for women producers; mobile phones can be key in providing access to market information and increasing women's business investments; and, female autonomy is an important determinant of rural women's earnings and should be taken into account when designing interventions.

70. **Selim Gulesci** (Bocconi University) presented the evaluation results of the BRAC ultrapoor programme in Bangladesh, which aims to promote structural change from wage-labour to self-employment. The beneficiaries of the programme are the poorest women in rural Bangladesh who receive an asset transfer (e.g. cows, goats) and an asset specific training (e.g. weekly visits from BRAC officers for two years). Findings show that the BRAC programme has transformed occupational choices and increased productive assets, earnings and consumption among beneficiaries.

9. Close of the GENDERNET meeting

71. **Áine Doody** closed the eleventh meeting of the GENDERNET by emphasising the important role of GENDERNET members in pushing for gender equality to be front and centre in the post-2015 development agenda, and supporting continued progress on the implementation of Busan commitments on gender equality. Members were invited to discuss and share strategies for influencing the Open Working Group discussions and other relevant post-2015 processes. The Bureau and Secretariat will maximise opportunities to exchange information and strategies throughout the year. Members were also encouraged to reflect on suitable case studies for the joint GENDERNET-IANWGE workshop in November 2013.

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15/5/2013 - 17/5/2013

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