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## DAC Network on Gender Equality

**JOINT BIENNIAL WORKSHOP OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY NETWORK ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY (IANWGE) AND THE OECD DAC NETWORK ON GENDER EQUALITY (GENDERNET)**

**Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: cornerstones for achieving the MDGs and accelerating development beyond 2015**

**KEY MESSAGES AND SUMMARY RECORD**

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**Joint Biennial Workshop of the United Nations  
Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender  
Equality (IANWGE) and the OECD DAC Network on  
Gender Equality (GENDERNET)**

**“Gender Equality, Women’s Rights and Women’s  
Empowerment: cornerstones for achieving the MDGs  
and accelerating development beyond 2015”**

**6-7 November 2013  
OECD Conference Centre, Paris**

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**KEY MESSAGES AND SUMMARY RECORD**



## INTRODUCTION

The OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality hold a joint workshop every two years to exchange ideas and information on issues of mutual relevance and to strategise on how to better promote coherence and complementarity. The two Networks represent the gender focal points and advisors of the United Nations system, bilateral agencies and the development banks.

The focus of the 2013 biennial workshop was: *Gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment: cornerstones for achieving the MDGs and accelerating development beyond 2015*. The objective was to strategise on entry-points, opportunities and tactics to address the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls and ensure that gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment are at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda, by:

- Exchanging lessons on achievements and challenges in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls to identify strategies to accelerate progress towards and beyond 2015
- Identifying priority targets and indicators on gender equality and women's rights to be integrated into the post-2015 framework
- Strategising about how, when and where we can influence key political and intergovernmental processes leading to the agreement of the post-2015 framework.

### KEY MESSAGES FROM THE 2013 JOINT GENDERNET/IANWGE WORKSHOP

There is broad consensus that gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment matter in their own right and as a prerequisite for sustainable development. The MDGs have played an important role in galvanising attention to gender equality and women's empowerment and other development issues, but fell short of the ambition voiced in the Millennium Declaration. Progress has been uneven, both within and between countries.

Against this background, and drawing on evidence from case studies and presentations at the workshop, participants called for:

#### **1. Gender equality and women's empowerment to be central to the post-2015 agenda and SDGs**

The achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment is a universal concern that applies to all countries. There is no country in the world that has achieved gender equality. There is also significant unfinished business from the MDGs in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment that needs to be addressed.

The post-2015 agenda and SDGs should be based on the principles of human rights and national and international accountability and participation. They should build on, and expand, the priority given to promoting gender equality and women's rights in the MDGs. The three dimensions of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental - should be guided by human rights principles with women's rights and gender equality at the centre. There is strong support for retaining an ambitious, standalone goal on gender equality in the post-2015 framework and mainstreaming gender equality across all goals.

#### **2. Poverty eradication to remain at the core of any future framework**

Women are over-represented amongst the poor, and face significant barriers to economic empowerment. A strength of the MDGs has been the focus and attention given to eradicating poverty. This should continue in the post-2015 framework. There is an opportunity to further focus efforts on eradicating absolute poverty, and better tracking the experiences of women and men.

Current measures of poverty often do not capture women's experiences of poverty. In this regard, the measurement of poverty should go beyond income measures to a multi-dimensional approach. Meaningful measurement requires efforts to capture intra-household differences.

### **3. A framework that takes a comprehensive approach to addressing gender inequality**

A new framework will need to take a transformational approach to tackling gender inequality and address the structural factors that underpin the widespread persistence of gender inequality. The new framework must address intersectional discrimination and the disadvantage experienced by the most marginalised women and girls. The framework should be designed to harness the synergies and interconnections between gender equality and all development goals.

Goals and targets should be anchored and aligned with existing international human rights standards including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, International Conference on Population and Development, Beijing Platform for Action and other human rights instruments.

There is an emerging acknowledgement of the following priority areas:

- Girls' completion of a quality post-primary education
- Women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Women's economic empowerment
- Women's leadership, voice and influence at all levels in public and private institutions, including in peacebuilding and humanitarian settings
- Freedom from violence against women and girls
- Women's role in peacebuilding and statebuilding
- Gender equality and environmental and energy sustainability, including responses to climate change, and women's access to and control over natural resources.

### **4. Targets and indicators that track progress on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment**

There should be comprehensive integration of gender equality indicators across the new framework including sex-disaggregation and addressing specific gender equality issues across the goals.

Indicators should be based on those agreed by the UN Statistical Commission. We should use the solid work which has already been done by the UN Statistical Commission to define a minimum set of 52 gender equality indicators based on the Beijing Platform for Action; and nine indicators specifically designed to measure violence against women in all its aspects. However, proposals for targets and indicators should not be limited in ambition by data availability. There is scope to improve data availability over the course of the post-2015 framework.

Governments must continue to accelerate efforts to fill data gaps and strengthen statistical capacity. Efforts should focus on areas where there are significant gaps in data availability, comparability, quality and coverage on gender equality, such as individual level asset data, time-use data and data on women's leadership, voice and influence. Donors should support governments that need to strengthen statistical capacity.

### **5. Adequate and sustained financing to implement gender equality commitments**

The effective implementation of the post-2015 agenda will require adequate and sustained financing. Currently there are significant donor funding gaps, for example in the key areas of women's economic empowerment, family planning and reproductive health, peace and security, and violence against women. Efforts to support gender equality in these sectors need to be intensified. Inadequate data collection on funding on preventing and responding to violence against women must be addressed.

Donors should continue to invest in innovative funding models to support women's organisations in advancing women's rights and agenda setting.

However, donor funding is only a part of the story. Donor financing needs to support country ownership and leadership for achieving gender equality and women's rights. National governments also have a significant role to play in providing political commitment, leadership and funding.

**6. Political will to be galvanised to ensure gender equality and women's rights are comprehensively addressed in the post-2015 agenda and SDGs**

There is significant work to be done to agree the post-2015 framework and SDGs. Key milestones in this process will include discussions on gender equality by the SDG Open Working Group, the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women to review progress on gender and the MDGs, and the ICPD review.

It is important that all countries own the post-2015 framework and link these to national plans. This may require a framework that is flexible to national contexts.

Looking ahead, effective implementation will require gender-responsive accountability systems that enable women's organisations to hold public authorities and other duty bearers, including the private sector, answerable for their commitments. Key to making accountability systems work for women is to support the strengthening of women's organisations and women's collective action.

## PART 1: PLENARY SESSIONS

### WELCOME REMARKS

**Erik Solheim**, Chair, OECD Development Assistance Committee and **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka**, Executive Director, UN Women (via video message)

Chair: **Melissa Stutsel**, Chair of the DAC Network on Gender Equality (Australia)

**Melissa Stutsel** welcomed participants and emphasised the timeliness of the biennial workshop as we accelerate efforts to address the unfinished business of the MDGs and articulate a post-2015 framework that has gender equality and women's rights at its heart.

**Erik Solheim** spoke of the rapid historical advances made towards gender equality and women's rights in northern Europe over the past generation; and progress in many developing countries. Rwanda, for example, has the highest number of women parliamentarians in the world. It is critical that we celebrate and learn from these successes as we define a new global framework. Mr Solheim highlighted emerging **areas of consensus** on principles that should shape the new framework:

- The post-2015 agenda should be a **single agenda** that encompasses development and environmental concerns, including a commitment to **eradicating absolute poverty by 2030**.
- The post-2015 agenda should be **universal** in nature and apply to all people in all countries. This will be critical for achieving gender equality since there is no country in the world that has yet made this a reality.
- Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment will require a **standalone goal** and comprehensive integration of **gender-specific targets and indicators across all goals**.

The OECD can assist by identifying effective policies to achieve the goals and targets agreed by political leaders, and supporting the resource mobilisation necessary for their implementation.

**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** welcomed the long-lasting relationship between the GENDERNET and the IANWGE and called on participants to join efforts to move the gender equality agenda forwards. The MDGs have been a truly historic undertaking which provided a shared vision, galvanised action at national and international levels, and led to innovative partnerships. Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka emphasised that despite financial constraints and complex and long lasting cultural, socio-economic, political and environmental impediments which make it harder for the international community to accelerate efforts towards MDG implementation and mobilise resources, development partners continue to be challenged to make a difference in women's lives. The post-2015 development agenda provides an opportunity to accelerate efforts to create a world in which women and men, girls and boys, live free from fear and can realise their potential. In the context of the SDGs, Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka underscored the need for a **strong standalone goal** on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights, and the **integration of gender equality throughout all the goals** that are to be defined.

**Plenary discussion:**

- There is an emerging consensus that the post-2015 framework should be universal in nature. It will be important to frame post-2015 debates, goals and targets in such a way as to gain traction among developed as well as developing countries.

**SESSION 1: SETTING THE SCENE: GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT – TO 2015 AND BEYOND**

**The roadmap to 2015: processes, emerging priorities and areas of consensus**

**Saraswathi Menon**, Director of Policy Division, UN Women, described eight tensions that will need to be addressed as we define a new post-2015 and SDGs agenda. Tensions exist between:

- taking stock versus looking forward
- an emphasis on process and principles versus directly crafting the goals
- continuity versus transformation
- a narrow and manageable framework versus one that is comprehensive and deals with structural issues
- approaching issues in silos versus identifying interconnections
- development (focused on the poorest) versus universality
- average measures of progress versus addressing inequality
- a framework that is multilaterally defined, as with the MDGs, versus one that is inter-governmentally negotiated. The focus is on the latter but engagement by multilaterals remains critical.

**Ms Menon identified key milestones ahead:**

Politically the starting point was **Rio+20**, where for the first time there was a larger view of development that combined environmental, economic and social issues. Rio placed an emphasis on **universal responsibility**.

The **UN System** has played a critical role in supporting the intergovernmental post-2015 and SDG processes:

- The **UN System Task Team**, made up of more than 50 UN entities and international organisations, produced *Realising the future we want for all* (June 2012). This emphasised three principles which have remained central to discussions on post-2015 and the SDGs: **human rights, equality and sustainability**.
- The UN Development Group undertook 11 global thematic **consultations**, including one on inequalities, and over 80 country consultations.
- The UN Secretary-General established a **UN Technical Support Team** that prepares issues briefs for Open Working Group (OWG) discussions. A brief on *Gender equality and women's empowerment* has been prepared by UN Women, UNDP and UNFPA for the eighth session of the OWG (5-6 February 2014). This can be accessed at: [www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org](http://www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org)
- The UN Secretary-General submitted *A life of dignity for all*, a report on the MDGs and post-2015 framework, to the UN General Assembly in 2013. This identifies “**empowering women and girls**” as one of 14 **transformative actions** needed.
- UN Women produced “*A transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment: imperatives and key components*”. This emphasises the importance of addressing **structural discrimination and inequalities**, adopting a **transformative** approach, and addressing **intersecting** forms of inequality.
- Independent streams of work - including reports by the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Post-2015, the UN Global Compact, and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - have all emphasised the importance of **gender equality, inequalities and accountability**.

**Ms Menon outlined major upcoming processes that it will be important to influence** in addition to the intergovernmental processes underway to define the post-2015 agenda:

- The 58<sup>th</sup> session of the **UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58)** on *Challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the MDGs*, 10-21 March 2014; and the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW on *Beijing Plus 20*, 9-20 March 2015. UN Women will prepare two Secretary-General's reports on the priority theme and will support the Chair and Vice-Chair to draft agreed conclusions by Member States.
- *The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014 Review*, 2014 (see below).
- The 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) **1325** on Women, Peace and Security, 2015.

**Key points from UN Women's Expert Group Meeting in preparation for CSW58 include:**

- Any assessment of the MDGs and future frameworks should be framed in terms of human rights, with an emphasis on principles of participation and non-discrimination.
- Women's organisations and women's collective action has played a critical role in advancing women's rights, agenda-setting and accountability.
- It is critical to measure and assess the process and the policies by which ends are reached and not just the ends themselves.
- Accountability goes beyond the national level; duty bearers are not just governments but include the private sector.
- It is critical to address multidimensional poverty and poverty *within* households.

**Turid Kongsvik**, Gender Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shared Norway's priorities for the post-2015 framework. The agenda should be **universal, rights-based and anchored in the Millennium Declaration**. Norway supports a **standalone goal** on gender equality and women's rights with particular attention to: girls' access to quality secondary and tertiary education; women's empowerment in economic and political life; ending violence against women and girls; and realising

the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The adoption by the UN Security Council in October 2013 of Resolution 2122 on women, peace and security, which supports access to abortion for women raped in war, is a historic step forward for reproductive rights. Member States should capitalise on this.

### **Getting to grips with the Sustainable Development Goals/“sustainability”**

**Sarah Bradshaw**, Principal lecturer, Middlesex University, on behalf of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), outlined the Network’s proposals for the SDGs. SDSN are calling for **inclusive, integrated goals**, with gender equality mainstreamed throughout and specifically addressed as part of a goal on “Achieving Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Human Rights for All”. Ms Bradshaw highlighted weaknesses of the proposals put forward by the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

- the focus is on the goals and targets with insufficient attention to the process for achieving them
- the idea of having nationally-defined targets, while beneficial in some respects, would allow countries to opt out or set a low level of ambition
- the focus on women’s public profile and productive capacity overlooks women’s private relations and domestic responsibilities, including work in the care economy.

**It is essential that gender equality is included not only as a means to an end but as a right in itself.**

**Magdalene Lagu**, Gender Advisor, Department for International Development, United Kingdom, emphasised the UK’s support for a standalone goal on gender equality in the post-2015 framework and mainstreaming across the goals. The UK has welcomed the illustrative goal and targets proposed by the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel, which go well beyond MDG3 in ambition; and the commitment to disaggregating data for all social groups. It will be a challenge to deliver an equally compelling set of goals through the intergovernmental processes. It is important to be **ambitious but realistic** in what we push for and be clear about an **acceptable fall-back**. Practical proposals are needed for a robust accountability framework to track progress towards the goals and targets.

### **Plenary Discussion:**

Key questions that will need to be addressed include:

- How to deal with the tension between being practical and strategic while also transformative?
- How to strike a balance between universality and prioritising the poorest and most vulnerable?
- How to give specific consideration to the needs of fragile and conflict-affected states?
- How to engage all sectors including the private sector in advancing the gender equality agenda in the context of the post-2015 framework?

## SESSION 2: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ICPD BEYOND 2014 AND BEIJING+20 PROCESSES

Chair: **Carolina Wennerholm**, Senior Policy Specialist, Gender Equality, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

**Lakshmi Puri**, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, UN Women, briefed the networks on the **20-year anniversary of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** (Beijing Plus 20). The process will involve a review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action - which remains the “gold standard” for normative work on gender equality and women’s empowerment - during the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2015. The review will include:

- comprehensive national-level reviews undertaken by all states of progress made and challenges encountered
- regional reviews undertaken by the five UN Regional Commissions
- a review and appraisal at global level carried out by the CSW at its 59<sup>th</sup> session in March 2015. At that time, the Commission will also assess opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.

UN Women will support mobilisation by civil society and the public to push for accountability by Member States for commitments made on gender equality and women’s empowerment nearly 20 years ago. Ms Puri called on participants to utilise this review to reiterate that the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly remain key policy documents. The review will also inform the formulation of the post-2015 development framework to ensure that women’s rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment are at its core. The Beijing review is an important basis for making the case for a structurally-transformative post-2015 gender equality goal; and an opportunity to push for a revolution in data on gender equality.

**Kate Gilmore**, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Programmes, UNFPA, underscored the continuing relevance of the agenda set during the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. What is needed is the political will to make these commitments a reality.

In preparation for **ICPD Beyond 2014**, UNFPA held five regional conferences and three thematic conferences on human rights, women’s health, and young people. To mark the anniversary of ICPD there will be a special session of the UN General Assembly in September 2014. This will be informed by a report of the UN Secretary-General which will pull together the outcomes of the regional and thematic conferences, and a global survey on the extent to which governments have upheld the Cairo Declaration.

Ms Gilmore welcomed the progress made since 1994 but stressed that severe discrimination persists on grounds of identity, income and place. In particular, the situation of adolescent girls has not markedly changed and there is almost no data on this group that is independent of data on their families. It will be critical to mobilise the constituency of young people to support the gender equality agenda in the next 12 months.

### SESSION 3: GENDER EQUALITY TARGETS AND INDICATORS IN THE POST-2015 FRAMEWORK

Chair: **Moez Doraïd**, Director of the UN System Coordination Division, UN Women

**Martine Durand**, Director, OECD Statistics Directorate, called for a balance between a broad set of targets and indicators that comprehensively cover gender equality issues, and the realities of data availability and statistical capacity at the country level. It is essential to start a dialogue on priorities with the aim of selecting a **limited number of relevant, measurable gender equality targets and indicators**.

It is critical to keep up the good work on **filling data gaps**. This will expand the frontier of what is possible to measure at the global level and provide a baseline for any future post-2015 statistical endeavour. Important global initiatives include:

- The work of the **UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS)** which has developed a minimum set of 52 indicators on gender equality for international data compilation based on the priority areas identified in the Beijing Platform for Action; and nine indicators on ending violence against women and girls.
- The **EDGE (Evidence and Data for Gender Equality)** initiative, managed by UN Women and the UN Statistical Division in collaboration with Member States, the World Bank, the OECD and others, is strengthening national capacity and systems on data collection in the areas of asset ownership and entrepreneurship.
- The **Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women: Statistical Surveys** which support national statistical offices in collecting, processing, disseminating and analysing data on violence against women and girls.
- The **UN Statistical Commission Friends of the Chair Group (FOC)** on Broader Measures of Progress which was established to develop measures of progress to complement GDP and has been tasked with providing statistical advice for each of the OWG sessions.

**Caren Grown**, Department of Economics, American University, Washington DC, argued for a **parsimonious and flexible set of gender equality targets and indicators** to incorporate in a post-2015 framework. Whilst the post-2015 goals need to be universal in nature the targets could be nationally-agreed to ensure relevance to specific contexts. It will be important to focus on what is feasible to measure and build momentum (political support and funding) around existing data collection initiatives that can yield results in the next three to five years.

Building on the report of the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Gender Equality and Education (2005) and UN Women's "*A Transformative Stand-Alone Goal on Achieving Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Women's Empowerment: Imperatives and Key Components*" (2013), Ms Grown presented proposals for targets and indicators on gender equality for inclusion in the post-2015 framework. These should be integrated across all goals.

#### **1. Freedom from Violence**

- Total and age-specific rates of ever partnered women subjected to sexual/physical violence by an intimate partner in the last 12 months
- Percentage of people who think it is never justifiable for a man to beat his wife, by sex

## **2. Capabilities and Resources**

### Health

- Maternal mortality ratio
- Unmet need for family planning
- Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
- Adolescent fertility rate
- Percentage of population 15-49 living with HIV/AIDS by sex
- Under 5 mortality rate by sex

### Education

- Transition rates to secondary education
- Completion rates of secondary education, by sex
- Learning outcomes, by sex

### Economic resources

- Proportion of people in vulnerable employment, by sex
- Access to secure property rights (land, housing)

## **3. Voice, Leadership and Participation**

- Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments
- Proportion of seats held by women in local governments
- Voter registration and turnout by sex

### In fragile and conflict situations:

- Percentage of the population with basic national identity documentation, by sex
- Birth registration coverage, by sex
- Representation of women among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations
- Percentage of peace agreements with specific provisions to improve the security and status of women and girls, including gender-based violence in times of war

**Jennifer Olmsted**, Technical Adviser on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, UNFPA, outlined UNFPA's Strategic Plan's priority themes for 2014-17. Positive norm change to transform the underlying structures holding women back is a priority. This will require engaging men and boys, improving educational systems, and exploring women's and girls' own attitudes towards violence against women. Individual attitude change can be measured through Demographic and Health Surveys and the World Values Survey but it is more challenging to measure changes in the institutional structures that reinforce prevailing norms.

**Shelton Kanyanda**, Programme Coordinator Africa Region, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS 21), drew attention to the statistical capacity challenge that many developing countries face in collecting data. It will be important to engage statistical offices at country level early in the post-2015 process and provide the tools to integrate gender equality into their national statistical strategies. The focus on 'big data' cannot substitute for the need to support and strengthen the capacity of official national sources of data.

**Papa Seck**, Research and Data Specialist, Policy Division, UN Women, presented lessons learned from the shortcomings of the MDG indicator selection and monitoring framework. A key lesson is that the criteria for target and indicator selection for post-2015 must be based on transparent and inclusive consultations with all relevant stakeholders. This process cannot be divorced from

discussions on statistical capacity building. Targets and indicators agreed by the UN Statistical Commission provide a solid starting point for selecting gender equality targets and indicators for post-2015.

**Participants** underlined the importance of using the post-2015 agenda as an opportunity to be ambitious and make progress on more intractable issues for which reliable data is still unavailable. Data has improved significantly since the MDGs were devised and we can expect these gains to continue. Priorities include women's unpaid work, the care economy, quality of work, and violence against women and girls.

A successful post-2015 monitoring framework will require strong political will and commitment by both donor and partner countries. Participants emphasised that national capacity needs to be strengthened. This will be critical in accelerating implementation of the MDGs and improving the compilation and use of evidence to inform the policy making processes.

Participants stressed that development partners should consider statistical capacity building and target selection in tandem, and reflect on how to better support developing countries to collect data and establish adequate baselines to track implementation of the post-2015 framework.

#### **SESSION 4: FINANCING GENDER EQUALITY, WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

Chair: **Meg Jones**, Women and Trade Programme Manager, International Trade Centre

**Patti O'Neill**, GENDERNET Secretariat, OECD, described how DAC members' aid flows in support of gender equality and women's empowerment have nearly tripled since the MDGs from **USD 8 billion in 2002 to USD 22 billion in 2011**. Most of this went to education and health. Significant **donor funding gaps remain** in priority areas for the post-2015 agenda such as women's economic empowerment, family planning and reproductive health, women's leadership, and peace and security. Further efforts are needed to develop a specific statistical code to track donor spending on tackling violence against women and girls. Donor financing needs to **support partner countries' own efforts** to accelerate progress for women and girls. Donors can help to fill countries' funding gaps but political commitment and leadership must also come from partner governments.

**Moez Doraid**, Director of the UN System Coordination Division, UN Women, highlighted key tenets of a sustainable funding strategy for gender equality in the post-2015 framework. These include:

- the **primacy of domestic resources**
- the **importance of budget and expenditure tracking systems** for promoting accountability of governments and donors for resourcing commitments to gender equality and increasing pressure for investments that are gender-responsive
- the **critical role of civil society** in mobilising for adequate funding and monitoring the implementation of government commitments
- the opportunities presented by the **development effectiveness agenda** for ensuring the implementation of national and international commitments for gender equality, including through the post-Busan global gender equality indicator - *% of countries with systems that track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment*. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation is a mutual accountability mechanism that can help define new aid modalities and a sustainable financing strategy to implement the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr Doraid also shared lessons on increasing financing for gender equality which included:

- the need for a sustainable financing strategy supported by multi-stakeholder partnership including governments, private sector, international organisations, multilateral and bilateral donors and civil society
- it is critical to integrate gender perspectives in national budgets and strengthen government ability to use the available domestic resources more effectively and efficiently
- developing accountability mechanisms to systematically track budgets and expenditures is key for increasing gender responsive investments. The post-Busan global indicator on gender equality provides entry points for governments to strengthen accountability and broadens dialogue and generates political will and incentives for implementing commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment
- civil society, women's organisations and gender advocates play an important role in holding governments and donors' accountable for global commitments on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women. This role needs to be strengthened further in a post-2015 agenda.

**Irma van Dueren**, Head, Gender Division, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and **Nerea Craviotto**, Lead Advocacy Coordinator, Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), described innovative features of the Dutch MDG3 fund which awarded EUR 77 million to 45 organisations and networks worldwide to advance gender equality and women's rights (2008-11). The Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) fund, which followed the MDG3 Fund, has a budget of EUR 80 million (2012-15) and currently finances 34 projects focussing on security, economic self-reliance and political participation in more than 100 countries. These funds were the result of strong leadership by the Dutch government, an active parliamentary group working on gender equality, and a strong women's lobby.

AWID's independent assessment of the aggregate impact of the MDG3 Fund - "Women Moving Mountains" - revealed that the fund reached almost 225 million people with new awareness of women's rights; 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 nature of the grants and the broad range of strategies used by grantees. This experience demonstrates that small amounts of funding to women's organisations can have significant impact.

**Participants** concurred that donor and partner countries' financing efforts for gender equality need to be tracked. Participants welcomed the focus on domestic resource mobilisation, particularly because the post-2015 agenda will only be financed by Official Development Assistance (ODA) to a limited extent. It is time to start thinking of ways to use ODA to leverage other financial flows for development. Designing effective funding and tracking systems remains a challenge but such systems can be important in stimulating further investments in gender equality and women's rights.

Funding for gender equality continues to be a challenge in terms of magnitude, and tracking and monitoring. The OECD DAC gender equality policy marker and the gender markers used in the UN system have allowed the identification and tracking of allocations and disbursements focused on gender equality in some countries and institutions. Nevertheless, there is little information available about the investment in gender equality at the global level.

Funds to support women's organisations were stressed as being very important. Women's associations continue to play a critical role in monitoring women's rights and influencing decision making at all levels. This has been demonstrated for example in the case of conflict-affected countries where women have been key players in building peace. It is important that financing is

long-term and predictable, and includes core funding to strengthen the sustainability of women's organisations. There are already efforts to engage the private sector in supporting women's organisations and to introduce the decent work agenda in their operations.

## **SESSION 5: REFLECTIONS ON THE MDG EXPERIENCE: ACCELERATING PROGRESS TO 2015 AND BEYOND**

Chair: **Sonsoles Ruedas**, Director, Gender Office, United Nations World Food Programme

**Somali Cerise**, Research Specialist, UN Women, shared the main findings from a **review of 85 national MDG reports** which aimed to understand how countries are implementing and reporting on the MDGs for women and girls. Gender equality and women's empowerment are cited as an important cross-cutting issue in many MDG reports but are not always comprehensively addressed. Gender analysis is often missing, especially in reporting on the achievement of MDG7 and 8. To accelerate progress to achieve all the MDGs by 2015 it is necessary to:

- develop stronger accountability mechanisms
- take a more comprehensive approach that goes beyond targets to fulfill the vision of the Millennium Declaration and international human rights instruments
- address the structural drivers of gender inequality
- emphasise synergies and interconnections between all goals.

**Tracy Vaughan Gough**, Gender Policy Advisor, UNDP, introduced the **MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF)** which was developed by UNDP in 2010 and is currently applied in more than 50 countries. The MAF is a mechanism that supports governments in devising nationally owned, multi-partner action plans for improving their rate of progress on off-track MDGs, within the context of their existing planning cycle. Gender inequalities appear as concrete bottlenecks in many of the MAF analyses and plans, and a large proportion (37%) of MAF Action Plans focus on MDG 5 on reducing maternal mortality. MAFs provide additional evidence that failing to address gender inequalities and empower women slows down and even impedes progress.

## **SESSION 6: PULLING TOGETHER THE EMERGING THREADS FROM THE WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS**

The summary of the points raised in this session have been integrated into the synthesis of the parallel breakout groups which can be found at the end of this report.

## **SESSION 7: SUPPORTING THE POST-2015 AND SDG PROCESS**

Chair: **Jon Lomøy**, Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate

### **Part 1) Video conference with:**

- **John Hendra**, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programmes, UN Women
- **Paula Caballero Gomez**, Director of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia and Open Working Group Representative
- **Peter Versegi**, Minister-Counsellor, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations
- **Anna Brandt**, Sweden's Ambassador for the Post-2015 agenda, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (present in the conference room)

Mr Hendra outlined emerging areas of agreement on the shape of the post-2015 framework:

- founded on a **single agenda** for poverty eradication and sustainable development
- based on principles of **universality**
- **inclusive and people-centered**, with a focus on promoting **women's rights**
- **transformative** - tackling structural causes of poverty and inequality
- underpinned by robust **financing, monitoring** and **accountability** mechanisms.

Mr Hendra suggested targets in the following areas:

- **women's participation and decision making**, as proposed by the UN Global Compact Report which calls for an *increase in the proportion of leadership positions held by women in public and private sector to 40% or better*
- **preventing violence against women and girls**, as proposed by the UN Global Compact Report, the UN Sustainable Development Solution Network, the UN Development Group's *Million Voices: The World We Want*, the Millennium Development Goals Task Force, and the UN Secretary-General's *A Life of Dignity for All*. The High Level Panel specifically calls for an indicator on preventing early marriage
- **eliminating discrimination against women in all spheres of life**, as proposed by the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- **women's economic empowerment including decent work**, as proposed by the UN Global Compact Report which suggests indicators on *equal pay for equal work* and *full and equal access of women to ownership, property rights and land titles*; and the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel report which suggests an indicator on the *equal right of women to own and inherit property, sign a contract, register a business and open a bank account*
- **realising universal sexual reproductive health and rights**, as proposed by the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- **quality of girls' education** and the **safety of girls in the school environment**
- **ending maternal mortality**
- **inequality** - in particular through ensuring data is disaggregated by sex, age and disability.

Mr Hendra emphasised that engagement by civil society, the private sector and academia has been a hallmark of the post-2015 and SDGs process so far. It will be critical that the process continues to be open and inclusive.

Ms Caballero Gomez proposed an approach to structure discussions to define the SDGs that moves away from a top-down focus on goals towards a **bottom-up focus on targets**. This would root the post-2015 framework in national and local needs and priorities and enable broader buy-in from different constituents. It would make it easier to articulate the interlinkages between issues and sectors and maximise potential synergies. It would also facilitate engagement by data experts in the post-2015 processes now rather than waiting until after 2015.

Mr Versegi highlighted the challenge of designing an ambitious and comprehensive post-2015 agenda that is at the same time simple and compelling. It will be important to be clear about the **priority targets** on gender equality and **build momentum around these**. DAC countries should establish **cross-regional alliances** to challenge the notion that gender equality is a western agenda.

Ms Brandt called for **evidence-based arguments** that make the links between integrating gender equality into the post-2015 framework and achieving sustainable development and the eradication of extreme poverty. Ms Brandt underscored the importance of the OWG sessions and ensuing

reports, which will inform the UN Secretary-General's synthesis report that will be the basis for the intergovernmental negotiations. It will be important to insert **concrete examples of why gender equality matters** for all other dimensions of sustainable development that will be discussed at the OWG. **Building alliances** with non-DAC countries is crucial.

#### **Plenary Discussion:**

Participants highlighted the importance of:

- continuing to advocate for a standalone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment and comprehensive gender mainstreaming across the future framework. Participants recognised the need for a transformative standalone goal to drive and monitor transformation in the structural determinants of gender-based inequality
- continuing to advocate for gender equality to be mainstreamed into each and all SDGs, recognising the inter linkages between the goals
- recognising the intrinsic value of gender equality as well as its instrumental role in helping to bring about progress that benefits everyone
- identifying a limited number of targets that are transformational and building momentum around these
- basing the new set of global targets and indicators on internationally agreed standards, chosen on the basis of their relevance, methodological soundness and measurability
- focusing on the poorest women and girls and those from excluded groups
- building cross-regional alliances around specific targets
- engaging actively with the OWG beyond the February 2014 session on gender equality
- reaching out to capitals in situations where there is a disconnect between the position of capitals and a more regressive position of delegates in New York.

There was general support for a stand-alone goal on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment and the integration of gender-specific targets and indicators in all other goals. The framework should be comprehensive and address core areas such as: freedom from violence for women and girls; capabilities and resources; and voice, leadership and participation. Together, these three dimensions shape women's and girls' safety, economic and social security and choices, and voices in shaping public policy priorities.

#### **Part 2) How can we work together to support these political processes**

**Patti O'Neill**, GENDERNET Secretariat, OECD, outlined major milestones that will be important in shaping the post-2015 framework, which governments and UN entities will need to influence and support:

- the **OWG sessions**, including but not limited to the session on gender equality (3-7 February 2014)
- the President of the UN General Assembly's "**Setting the Stage**" high-level event on the contributions of women, young people and civil society to the post-2015 agenda (6-7 March 2014)
- the **CSW58** on *Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls* (March 2014)
- the **UN General Assembly** (September 2014), when an intergovernmental negotiation track is set to be launched to take over from the OWG.

Ms O'Neill underscored the importance of working with partner governments as we prepare for these milestones.

**Ros Ebdon**, Gender Team Leader, DFID, reflected on **successful strategies** that have been used by the UK in alliance with other governments to achieve strong outcomes on gender equality and women's rights in global negotiations. The UK coordinates across domestic government departments to **agree a common government position** and set of messages, as well as investing in **external outreach and alliance-building**. For example, DFID has regular communication with colleagues in foreign office posts and with ambassadors who can be influential in engaging partner governments.

It is critical to identify partner countries that are playing an influential role in the negotiations and encourage them to be vocal in their support for women's rights. **Encouraging leadership on gender equality within regional blocs** such as the African Union and G77 is critical to avoid gender equality being seen as a western-led agenda. DFID also **supports southern CSOs** to galvanise action within their own countries.

Ms Ebdon noted the Joint Statement to the OWG delivered by Uruguay in June 2013 on the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights and freedom from violence. She proposed a similar joint statement on gender equality at the OWG session in February 2014.

**Moez Doraid**, Director of the UN System Coordination Division, UN Women, highlighted the consensus emerging around a post-2015 agenda that is based on principles of human rights and national and international accountability, and defined through a participatory process. Opposition is anticipated on several fronts:

- **Opposition to human rights and women's rights as a parochial agenda.** It will be important to be clear that "grounded in human rights" means being anchored in and aligned with existing normative frameworks and treaty obligations - i.e. in text that has *already been approved by the Member States of the United Nations*.
- **Opposition on technical grounds.** Technical experts have a key role to play in defining targets and indicators but data availability and feasibility of measurement should not define the priorities we set.
- **Opposition on the grounds that targets and indicators must be parsimonious.**

In our preparations for the post-2015 negotiations it will be important to develop coherent positions for a wide range of scenarios - from the best-case to the last resort.

**Heather Barclay**, Advocacy Officer, International Planned Parenthood Federation, underlined the increasing opposition to women's rights at the UN, where gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights are being politicised and framed as "foreign imports". At the CSW in 2013, several regions pushed for agreed conclusions to be subject to religious, cultural and traditional values. In practice this would have acted as an "opt out" on women's rights. In this context, it is critical for DAC countries to:

- position **gender equality as a "must have"** and make it clear that without gender equality at the centre of the post-2015 agenda it will be impossible to achieve sustainable development
- build a **broad base of support** by working with allies in the global south to champion gender equality
- be clear about **what is "non-negotiable"** - i.e. where the red lines are
- build **strong partnerships with CSOs** which offer technical knowledge and access to governments around the world via their international networks.

### Plenary Discussion:

- Reaching agreement on SRHR will be challenging but there is often a lack of consensus within blocs of governments that are resisting sexual rights, and divergence within the position of the same government. There can even be contradictions between a country's own laws and the position it adopts in global negotiations.
- Progressive governments should partner with women's rights groups and movements within countries that are most resistant to women's rights and support them to influence their government's position.
- Building up the evidence base is critical and should include evidence on language that governments have *already* signed up to.
- Much more work needs to be done to articulate the nexus between gender equality and sustainable development, particularly environmental sustainability.
- Continuing momentum around addressing inequalities in the post-2015 framework creates a risk that gender equality could be subsumed under a broader goal on inequalities. It is important to reiterate that gender equality is *different* from other dimensions of inequality because it is about how societies are organised.
- Supporting the High-Level Panel recommendation for a radical commitment on data disaggregation is one way of addressing the call to ensure that "no one is left behind". It is important to separate out debates on inequalities based on income and those based on social identities and exclusion on the grounds of gender, caste, race, ethnicity, language, religion, disability and sexual orientation.

Norway described well-tested strategies that have been effective in supporting strong outcomes from the CSW, including:

- focusing on countries that are supportive of sexual and reproductive health and rights but are not always vocal
- encouraging embassies to engage in dialogue with partner governments on women's rights
- encouraging governments to be at the CSW during the second week when the negotiations take place
- supporting NGOs from Norway and the global south to go to the CSW to influence their governments
- supporting active engagement by ministers prior to and during negotiations.

## PART 2: PARALLEL BREAK-OUT GROUPS

Parallel break-out sessions were held over the two-days of the workshop, dedicated to case studies and presentations on the implementation of the MDGs and lessons for post-2015.

### KEY MESSAGES

Case studies highlighted the need for:

- **holistic approaches** that recognise the **inter-linkages** between different dimensions of gender inequality and **engage at all levels** from the household and community to the national and international level
- **life-cycle approaches** to gender equality, including attention to the specific situation of **adolescent girls**
- a focus on the **most excluded** groups of girls and women
- targeted work to **shift attitudes and norms** alongside legislative and institutional reform
- investment in taking innovative and effective community-based approaches **to scale**
- ownership and leadership of efforts to advance gender equality by **partner governments**.

## FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

Chair: **Keiko Nowacka**, OECD Development Centre

### *Preventing violence against women and HIV – what does the evidence tell us?*

**Charlotte Watts**, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), presented findings from the first global systematic review of data on the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence, conducted by LSHTM and the World Health Organization. The research found that one in three women has experienced partner or non-partner violence globally, with little variation across countries. There is a strong correlation between high rates of HIV in women and violence against women. Violence and the fear of violence also heighten women's vulnerability to HIV and undermine the HIV response. There are many common entry points for preventing HIV and violence against women, including: education and economic empowerment; reform of laws for example on domestic violence and divorce; challenging gender norms and the acceptability of violence; and programmes to reduce violence against children.

### *Preventing violence against women and HIV: a case study of the SASA! approach*

**Lori Michau**, Raising Voices, Uganda, presented the SASA! methodology developed by the NGO Raising Voices to prevent violence against women and HIV through social norm change. This programme combines bottom-up methods such as community mobilisation and dialogue with top down methods such as advocacy for legal reform. The results of the first field trials show that the programme has resulted in a decrease in the social acceptability of IPV, a reduction in physical and sexual IPV, increased community support for women experiencing violence, and a reduction in concurrent partners among men. The challenge now is to scale up this methodology to the national level through partnerships with government, civil society and faith-based institutions.

### *UNFPA's experience of tackling gender-based violence in Morocco*

**Hind Jalal**, UNFPA Morocco, described a UNFPA initiative to establish a gender-based violence support network in Morocco coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, with links to health, protection and counselling services. Coordination mechanisms were established at provincial and regional levels, chaired by the Ministry of Justice. Gender-based violence service units were set up in all 21 appeals courts and 67 courts of first instance covering the entire country, and in all hospitals at provincial and regional levels. The ownership of the Moroccan Government was critical in leveraging the domestic resources needed to ensure the sustainability of these services.

## Discussion

- Ending violence against women requires interventions that a) engage with all members of the community – women and girls, men and boys, and religious and community leaders; b) challenge discriminatory social norms; and c) support a spectrum of approaches from comprehensive service provision to violence prevention.
- Scaling up community-led social norm change models to the national level remains a challenge but is essential for achieving wider societal shifts.
- The specific needs and vulnerabilities of adolescent girls require more attention.
- Violence against women and girls must be placed firmly within the post-2015 framework. Significant advances in data availability on violence against women and girls have made it feasible to propose an indicator on prevalence in the post-2015 framework.

## **WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (1)**

Chair: **Annika Törnqvist**, Kvinna Till Kvinna, Sweden

*Findings from BRAC's ultra-poor programme in Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan*

**Munshi Sulaiman**, BRAC Africa Programme, described BRAC's ultra-poor programme which was piloted in 11 countries to support the world's poorest people to move from insecure wage labour or subsistence farming towards basic entrepreneurship. Its key components consist of the transfer of assets (mostly livestock) combined with intense training to improve the productivity of the asset and technical supervision from BRAC. Results from the programme show an increase in total household income after just two years. In Afghanistan, women who participated in the programme saw a significant increase in hours spent in earning activities and a marked improvement in their wage level.

*Achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all*

**Jane Hodges**, International Labour Organization (ILO), described ILO programmes in Kenya and Tanzania that focus on enterprise creation, co-operatives, training, microfinance and business development services. These initiatives highlight the value of supporting the formation of associations of women entrepreneurs and linking these to employer organisations. They also underline the importance of a holistic approach to decent work that encompasses economic empowerment and livelihoods alongside rights and social protection.

*Lessons from the implementation of the joint programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UN Women, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme to accelerate the economic empowerment of rural women and the implementation of the MDGs*

**Libor Stloukal**, FAO, stressed that rural women are central to agriculture and sustainable development yet they face discrimination on many fronts including access to assets and resources, agricultural inputs, credit and technology and decent employment opportunities. This hinders the achievement of the MDGs. The joint programme *to Accelerate the economic empowerment of rural women* tackles these inequalities, with a focus on improving food and nutrition security, increasing incomes, strengthening women's participation and leadership in rural institutions, and creating more gender-responsive policy environments. Mr Stloukal highlighted issues that will need specific attention in a post-2015 framework: workloads within the household; control over income and property; energy and water rights; access to decent work; social protection; and gender-based violence.

## **WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (2)**

Chair: **Sally Gear**, Department for International Development, UK

*Innovative practices and approaches in the Palestinian Authority to accelerate progress in the achievement of the MDGs by 2015*

**Itiraf Remawi**, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Palestinian Authority, described how gender inequalities have been increasing and women's participation in the labour force has decreased to just 16%. To improve this situation it is critical to push for implementation of Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which enshrines the right of all people to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being. Women's civil society coalitions are essential for advancing a change in the law and putting pressure on decision-makers to prioritise women's empowerment.

*Empowering women beer brewers using energy efficient stoves in Burkina Faso*

**Rana Ghoneim**, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), described how the energy sector in Burkina Faso is one of the most energy deprived in the world with 100% import of fossil fuels and a heavy reliance on firewood. In this context, UNIDO is working with the Ministry of Environment to support women beer brewers to use energy efficient stoves. 100% of the beer brewers are women and the industry is an important source of income for women. However, women lack the financial resources needed to purchase new technologies and the technical know-how to use new technologies. UNIDO is addressing these challenges through a range of measures including technical assistance on the use of stoves and access to credit and self-financing schemes so that self-financing women's groups are able to buy stoves and negotiate a better rate for themselves.

*Strengthening women's economic autonomy: outcomes from the ECLAC XII Regional Conference on Women*

**Pamela Villalobos Koeniger**, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), described how the proportion of poor women in Latin America has risen by 11-12% despite a reduction in poverty in the region over the past 17 years. One in three women do not earn their own income, with women in rural areas worse affected. Conditional cash transfer (CCT) programmes have been effective in reducing poverty in the region but the impact on women's empowerment has been mixed. CCT programmes often increase women's unpaid responsibilities and reinforce the gender division of labour. Ms Villalobos Koeniger stressed that CCT systems need to be revised so that they address the underlying causes of women's poverty.

**WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (3) – TRADE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Chair: **Gloria Wiseman**, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada

*Entrepreneurship, women's economic empowerment and poverty alleviation*

**Meg Jones**, International Trade Centre (ITC), shared lessons for the post-2015 agenda:

- Economic empowerment IS about money! Money increases the status of women within families and society, can mitigate violence, and improves family welfare. An indicator on money should be included in the post-2015 framework.
- All goals need to incorporate a trade perspective (health, education, food, infrastructure). Sector strategies should be informed by gender-sensitive value chain analysis that considers what men and women do at each level from production to trade to export. It is important to build women's capacity in negotiation skills, self-confidence, and business networks.
- It is critical to tackle internal institutional constraints – for example, through effective gender mainstreaming policies to improve organisational performance on gender equality.

*The gender dimensions of trade: case studies from Lesotho, the Gambia and Angola*

**Sheba Tejani**, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), presented common structural constraints with respects to gender and trade, based on case studies from Lesotho, Gambia and Angola, including:

- Segmentation in low value, subsistence or labour intensive activities in agriculture, fisheries and manufacturing.
- Unequal access to productive resources.
- Low access to education and training for higher skilled jobs due to social and cultural barriers, lack of resources (time and income) and infrastructure.
- Discriminatory customary law which makes it difficult for women to own and inherit land
- The heavy burden of care work.

Ms Tejani proposed targets and indicators to include in the post-2015 framework to address these constraints, including:

- **Eliminate gender disparity in wages for similar work**; indicator: *Ratio of female wages to male wages for similar work.*
- **Reduce women's poverty and share of vulnerable employment**; indicators: *Unpaid female family workers and own-account workers as a percentage of total employment; Proportion of working women below poverty line; Female employment to population ratio.*
- **Reduce gender segmentation in the labour market**; indicators: *Female share of managerial / professional/clerical jobs; Female share of informal employment.*
- **Ensure women have equitable access to productive resources**; indicators: *Female share of landholding and immovable property; Female share of bank/ savings accounts.*
- **Ensure industrial upgrading and commercialisation by linking to global value chains does not exclude women**; indicators: *Female share of high skilled /managerial /permanent jobs in export-oriented sectors.*
- **Provide social safety nets to address economic insecurity and volatility due to trade**; indicators: *Coverage of unemployment insurance; Coverage of cash transfer and nutrition programmes for unemployed and under-employed population.*

## Discussion

Key points from the three economic empowerment break-out groups include:

- An expansive view of women's economic empowerment is needed that encompasses basic social safety nets as well as income generation.
- Improving women's access to property and land remains a crucial area of intervention.
- It is important to identify entry points for trade opportunities for women in all SDG areas. Gender impact assessments should be conducted for all trade and investment agreements.

## GENDER EQUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY

Chair: **Angela Mwai**, United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT)

*Women's contribution to environmental and energy sustainability: UNEP's experience*

**Janet Kabeberi-Macharia**, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Kenya, emphasised the need for a gender analysis of all aspects of energy access, use and management including: health aspects relating to energy use and production, energy consumption, and participation in decision-making. Ms Kabeberi-Macharia emphasised that energy is not a "rural women's issue" and underscored the need for context specific analysis of the specific energy needs of different groups of women, including attention to the energy needs of urban women.

## Discussion

- It is critical to address the security needs of women and girls who are at heightened risk of harassment and violence because of their social responsibilities for the collection of water and firewood.
- Women's security often worsens as a result of climate change due to high out-migration of men from rural to urban areas as environmental refugees.
- Gender equality should be integrated in disaster risk reduction strategies. When women and girls have knowledge of early warning signs they can make an important contribution to disaster prevention.
- Improvements are needed in sex-disaggregated data on use, access to, time allocation and management of energy at the household and intra-household level.
- More attention is needed to the situation of women and girls in urban settings and to stateless women.

## WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, VOICE AND INFLUENCE, INCLUDING IN PEACE-BUILDING AND STATE-BUILDING

Chair: **Carolina Wennerholm**, International Development Cooperation Agency, Sweden

*Monitoring women, peace and security indicators and their effect on the implementation of the MDGs: lessons for the post-2015 agenda*

**Anne-Marie Goetz**, UN Women reminded participants that UN Security Council Resolution 1889 led to the identification of 26 global indicators to track and monitor the implementation of UNSCR 1325, which the UN system reports against. Some of the challenges of developing indicators on women, peace and security include:

- existing indicators generally refer to a specific country or sub-set of countries - how can we define indicators on women, peace and security that are universal?
- existing indicators focus on processes or measures being put in place rather than outcomes
- peace processes are ad hoc and hard to compare, such as the conduct of peace talks or the extent to which truth and reconciliation commissions address women's rights.

Ms Goetz stressed that any measure of personal security must be gender-sensitive. Indicators should not privilege the violence that leads to fatalities but must also be sensitive to the violence that women experience in the private and public realms. The following indicators were proposed:

- A gender-sensitive measure of personal security
- Prevalence of small arms and light weapons
- A measure of military spending
- A proxy indicator for women's access to public services (e.g. women's employment in public service provision)
- Proportion of women in civilian or parliamentary oversight bodies/security forces
- Women's employment in conflict and post-conflict settings
- Women's inclusion in peace processes
- Inclusion of women's needs and priorities in conflict and post-conflict financing and planning
- Measure of civic registration, disaggregated by sex
- Women's representation in security, justice and foreign services sectors
- A measure of women in senior leadership of international and regional organisations

*UNDP Kenya and UN Women's Team of Eminent Persons Initiative*

**Phoebe Asiyu**, Chairperson of the Team of Eminent Persons in Kenya, described the new provision in Kenya's 2010 Constitution that no less than one-third of the seats in the National Assembly can be held by persons of either sex. This was expected to be an important consideration in Kenya's March 2013 General Elections; however Kenya's Supreme Court ruled that implementation of this provision would not be feasible before March 2013. Responding to the decision, UNDP Kenya and UN Women initiated a Team of Eminent Persons (TEP) initiative to hold the government, political parties and other stakeholders accountable to deliver the spirit of the Constitution's one-third promise. Consisting of members from the private sector, media, academia, former politicians and grassroots women leaders, TEP worked behind the scenes to encourage political party officials to nominate women candidates. TEP's work contributed to 21% of the newly established National Assembly chambers now being held by women compared to just 10% prior to the election. The new cabinet boasts six women out of 17 compared to seven women out of 40 in the 2008 cabinet. Factors which contributed to this success include support from the media, meetings with influential organisations such as the African Union, and lobbying as a coalition of women from across the Africa region. Moving forward it will be critical to ensure that women who are elected have the support they need to be effective.

*The Women's Citizenship and Peace-building Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)*

**Agnes Sadiki**, Caucus des Femmes Congolais du Sud-kivu pour la Paix, DRC and **Annika Törnqvist**, Kvinna till Kvinna, Sweden, introduced the Women's Citizenship and Peace-Building Project. Developed in cooperation with International Alert, the project is designed to create favourable conditions for women's participation in decision-making bodies in North and South Kivu and at national level. One of the most successful activities has been community-based dialogue groups for women and men of all ages to discuss topics such as domestic violence, child rights, women's rights, political participation, women's leadership, sexual violence, resolving conflict around land and gender equality. Community groups have been supported to identify the priorities that matter to them and have been connected with organisations at the national level which raise these priorities with national decision-makers. These initiatives have strengthened community cohesion, increased women's confidence to speak up in public, and encouraged men to be more supportive of women's rights.

**Discussion**

- Strengthening women's organisations and activism is key.
- Dialogue at the community level must take place in combination with engagement with decision makers at the national level.
- The media can play a leading role in ensuring that commitments on women's rights are widely publicised, which is essential for accountability.

**EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS**

Chair: **Blerina Vila**, International Trade Centre/International Labour Organization

*Realising girls' rights to an education: practical experiences and lessons learned*

**Saniye Gülser Corat**, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), argued that targets and indicators on girls' education in a post-2015 framework should be broader than those in the MDGs and encompass *quality* of education. Secondary education is particularly important for girls' empowerment and awareness of their rights. UNESCO's Global Partnership for Girls' Education galvanises support from the private and public sectors to improve quality education for girls and women, with a focus on secondary education. Moving forwards, more must be done to

reach girls who are most excluded, for example on grounds of gender but also location, ethnicity or disability.

*Expanding education opportunities for the most marginalised girls: DFID's Girls' Education Challenge*

**Sally Gear**, Department for International Development, UK, emphasised the huge gender disparities that exist in education, with 31 million girls of primary school age out-of-school. DFID's Girl's Education Challenge Programme is the world's largest global fund for girls' education. It supports strategic partnerships, "step change" projects and innovation projects. One example is Camfed's *A New Equilibrium for Girls programme* in Zimbabwe and Tanzania which supports marginalised girls to complete secondary school in rural areas. It uses innovative approaches such as a mobile technology platform which enables young people in remote rural areas to connect together and access learning resources.

*Making a successful transition from school to work – lessons from the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Programme in Liberia and Nepal*

**Lucia Hanmer**, World Bank, presented the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Programme. Pilot programmes have been implemented in eight low-income countries from 2010-13, providing training in business development and/or technical and vocational skills, and life skills. In Liberia, the programme resulted in a 47% increase in employment and an 80% increase in earnings after one year whilst significantly increasing girls' savings. One factor contributing to the success of the programme was the focus on life skills and mentoring activities which helped participants to integrate socially.

## Discussion

- The safety of girls in school is a critical consideration and should include support for safe spaces for girls in schools.
- It is important to invest in vocational skills to support young women's entry into the labour market.
- Public and private sectors can be effective when they work together, with the private sector acting as a potential source of resources for work already in place.
- Programmes must support *women's* education not only girls', and recognise education as a human right.
- Improving and assessing the quality of girls' and women's education is a priority for the post-2015 framework.

## WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Chair: **Cathy Cozzarelli**, US Agency for International Development

*Young women leading change in Fiji*

**Jacque Koroi**, World YWCA, Fiji, described the YWCA's Fijian Programme *Through young wise eyes* which focuses on SRHR. Participants are mostly young women, especially single mothers who are out-of-school. Three-day interactive workshops build young women's leadership skills and capabilities, create a safe space to ask questions, and raise awareness of counselling and support services. Many participants have gone on to engage with government or participate in civil society. Ms Koroi argued that structural factors contributing to the marginalisation of young women must be taken into account in the post-2015 framework.

*Achieving the MDGs through accelerated country action for gender equality and HIV: Lessons from UNAIDS' experience*

**Paloma Cuchi** from the World Health Organization, on behalf of Jantine Jacobi from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), stressed that HIV remains the leading cause of death for women of reproductive age in sub-Saharan Africa. There is a shortage of condoms in many areas and inequalities in access to them, with only one female condom for every 13 women in sub-Saharan Africa. Even where reproductive health services exist, women face barriers in using them. UNAIDS is addressing these challenges through its 'Agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV'. This identifies effective interventions and provides guidance and support to national partners to meet the needs of women and girls. UNAIDS' experiences have underscored the need for zero discrimination, zero tolerance for gender-based violence, and zero violation of SRHR to be at the centre of discussions on post-2015 priorities.

**Discussion**

- It is critical to recognise the intersection of violence against women and reproductive health and rights and HIV/AIDS.
- SRHR is a rights issue not only a health issue.
- Stronger national data is needed on the situation of *young women*.

**List of Participants**  
**DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET)/UN IANWGE**  
**Biennial Workshop**

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