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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 14

Gender equality and empowerment of women

1. At its 12th meeting, on 11 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 14)).

2. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the programme under consideration and its role in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The important role and efforts of UN-Women were commended, including in leading and supporting system-wide coordination and gender mainstreaming. Support was expressed for the normative and operational work of the Entity.

4. The view was expressed that the reformulation of some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement approved for the 2012-2013 programme of work seemed premature. The view was also expressed that the key



focus areas in programme 14 of the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 should be the same as in the 2012-2013 programme of work. The view was expressed that a further review of the content of the list of legislative mandates of the programme might be needed.

5. The view was expressed that more emphasis should be given to women's economic empowerment, including access to basic services such as health and education, in addition to such issues as ending violence against women and girls and women's leadership. The view was expressed that the issues of women and peace and security, sexual violence in conflict and participation in peacebuilding should be more clearly reflected in the document and dealt with in a more balanced manner.

6. Clarification was sought with regard to the timeline of the next UN-Women strategic plan, for 2014-2017, as well as priorities for gender-specific activities resulting from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in June 2012.

7. The view was expressed that a concept of gender equality and the empowerment of women should not be emphasized in the plan, as UN-Women has only limited means, such as the dissemination of information, to effectively influence the existing situation. The view was expressed that too much emphasis was placed on operational activities at the country level, as such activities should be carried out at the request of Member States. Clarification was sought on the source of the mandates for building partnerships with civil society and non-governmental organizations.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 14.3

In the first sentence, after the words “the realization of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of”, add the words “economic and social”.

Paragraph 14.4

Replace the paragraph with the following text:

“14.4 During the 2014-2015 period, the programme is expected to continue to concentrate its efforts on the following six focus areas: (a) increasing women's leadership and participation in all areas that affect their lives, including in political and economic areas; (b) increasing women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded, particularly women living in poverty; (c) preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services; (d) increasing women's leadership in peace, security and

humanitarian response; (e) strengthening the responsiveness of plans and budgets in the area of gender equality at all levels; (f) supporting the development of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment."

Paragraph 14.5

Replace the paragraph with the following text:

"14.5 As it delivers support in those areas, the programme will lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system. The programme will carry out its work in coordination with other United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and entities in order to avoid duplication of work. It will provide overall leadership and will strengthen coordination mechanisms such as thematic inter-agency bodies at the global, regional and national levels, and will also further enhance coordination tools, such as system-wide action plans to enhance the accountability of the United Nations system on its work on gender equality."

Paragraph 14.7

In the second sentence, replace the words "strengthening coherence between the normative support provided to global intergovernmental processes and the technical and thematic advice provided to national partners at the country level" with the words "strengthening coherence between the normative and operational work".

Subprogramme 1

Intergovernmental support and strategic partnerships

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective with the following text:

"To strengthen the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including women's full enjoyment of their human rights".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "in all political, economic and social spheres" with the words "in their spheres of activity".

Replace expected accomplishment (b) with the following text:

"(b) Enhanced support of UN-Women for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women".

In expected accomplishment (c), replace the word "increased" with the word "enhanced".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (i) with the following text:

“(i) Increased number of activities aimed at supporting the participation of Member States, upon their request, in the deliberations of intergovernmental bodies, with particular emphasis on the Commission on the Status of Women”.

Replace indicator of achievement (a) (ii) with the following text:

“(ii) Percentage of required documents submitted by UN-Women on time for consideration by the relevant intergovernmental bodies, including the Commission on the Status of Women, in compliance with the relevant rules and regulations on the issuance of documentation”.

In indicator of achievement (b), before the word “number”, insert the word “Increased”.

Replace indicator of achievement (c) (i) with the following text:

“(i) Number of initiatives of United Nations entities supported by UN-Women that incorporate gender perspectives in their policies, programmes and projects”.

In indicator of achievement (d) (i), after the words “Number of activities”, insert the words “of UN-Women”.

Strategy

Paragraph 14.8

Replace subparagraph 14.8 (a) with the following text:

“(a) Promoting actions and providing assistance to Member States, upon their request, for the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that support, address and contribute to gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women, as well as obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.”

At the end of subparagraph 14.8 (c), delete the words “and the facilitation of the involvement of civil society”.

Replace subparagraph 14.8 (d) with the following text:

“(d) Increasing awareness and understanding of gender equality and the empowerment of women through education and information dissemination activities as well as outreach to stakeholders using different channels such as websites, social media and print products;”

Replace subparagraph 14.8 (e) with the following text:

(e) Encouraging women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;"

At the end of subparagraph 14.8 (f), add the words "of the United Nations system".

Add a new subparagraph 14.8 (g) as follows:

"(g) Supporting synergies and cooperation among countries, as well as the mechanisms established for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, at the regional and subregional levels"

And reletter the subsequent subparagraphs accordingly.

At the end of new subparagraph 14.8 (h) (formerly 14.8 (g)), add the words ", as well as strengthening training opportunities in the area of gender equality for United Nations officials;"

Subprogramme 2

Policy and programme activities

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective with the following text:

"To enhance efforts in the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and the achievement of gender equality in, inter alia, the fields of development, human rights and peace and security, including by leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work in those areas"

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace accomplishment (b) with the following text:

"(b) Enhanced capacity of UN-Women to effectively support, upon the request of Member States, national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations in order to advance gender equality and women's empowerment and to protect women's human rights"

In accomplishment (c), after the words "supporting Member States", add the words "upon their request".

Indicators of achievement

Replace indicators of achievement (a) (i) and (ii) with the following text:

"(a) Increased number of policies and actions taken and/or supported by UN-Women, upon the request of Member States, at the national and regional levels to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women”.

Replace indicator (b) (i) with the following text:

“(i) Number of UN-Women activities related to strengthening capacity development provided, upon the request of Member States, to national mechanisms for gender equality, service delivery institutions and civil society organizations”.

Replace indicator (b) (ii) with the following text:

“(ii) Number of UN-Women activities to support Member States, upon their request, aimed at increasing the availability of national sex-disaggregated data”.

Add an additional indicator (c) (iii) as follows:

“(iii) Number of United Nations country teams that are, with the support of UN-Women, applying performance indicators on gender equality in the common country assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks”.

Strategy

Paragraph 14.9

At the end of subparagraph 14.9 (b), replace the words “strategies and action plans and to incorporate gender perspectives in sectoral areas” with the words “including on the incorporation of gender perspectives in sectoral areas”.

In subparagraph 14.9 (c), revise the phrase “the implementation of commitments” to read “the implementation of their commitments”.

Legislative mandates

Delete the following General Assembly resolution:

64/141 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Add the following General Assembly resolutions:

64/293 United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

66/181 Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity