

Check Against Delivery

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Introduction of the Report of the Secretary-General on *Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system*

by

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Mr. Vice-President, distinguished delegates,

I'm honored to address this Council for the first time since joining UN Women to present the "Report of the Secretary-General on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system".

As the report notes, gender equality, and women's rights and empowerment remain a priority for the UN system, especially as the UN scales up and catalyzes support for the implementation of the SDGs. The global polycrises continue hampering, eroding and reverting progress for women and girls in some specific contexts.

Under these circumstances, we must continue pushing forward, as we leverage the best of the UN's mandate and the commitments of Member States and civil society. The Summit of the Future and Beijing+30 are key opportunities to **account, reaffirm and resource** global commitments to women and girls and propel transformative change.

In 2023, the UN system continued prioritizing gender mainstreaming and gender equality. I am pleased to share a few highlights.

First: Following an independent review of the UN system's capacity to deliver on gender equality, in March the Secretary-General launched the **Systemwide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan**, developed by an interagency task team comprised of 12 entities. The Plan calls for a norms-based approach to guide the UN's action for women and girls; renewed accountability mechanisms; the transformation of internal power dynamics and leadership approaches; and measures to address pervasive under-resourcing.

Second: Gender policies, gender equality markers, guidance notes, and standards and procedures drove gender equality across the system. Thirty-nine entities and 91 country teams use the gender marker with financial targets to set adequate investments on gender equality. The marker was used for 92 percent of sub-outputs in joint workplans of country teams, overseen by over 100 Gender Theme Groups. Of the 6,045 projects currently tagged through UMOJA in the UN Secretariat, 41 percent use the gender marker.

Third: Resident Coordinators and Country Teams were supported by the UN Development Coordination Office to integrate gender in development planning and programming. As a result, 53 percent of country teams implementing a Cooperation Framework this year integrated gender across all outcomes; 53 percent included a dedicated gender equality outcome, and 77 percent have a gender theme group or equivalent mechanism.

Fourth: Gender perspectives were integrated across the humanitarian, peace and security, and human rights pillars, underscoring their interconnectedness and the

need for gender-sensitive and gender-responsive actions. For example, gender perspectives were integrated in Humanitarian Response Plans; mandates of peacekeeping missions; and reporting on human rights violations in country operations and international investigative bodies.

Mr. Vice-President

The UN-SWAP and the UNCT-SWAP continue to be catalysts for gender mainstreaming.

Last year, 74 entities, including the Secretariat, implemented the UN-SWAP 2.0. Since its launch in 2018, the UN SWAP has consistently advanced accountability, coordination, and gender mainstreaming across the UN system. In 2023, 70 percent of ratings achieved or surpassed indicator requirements.

Meanwhile, **97 country teams** reported on implementation of the UNCT-SWAP scorecard, an annual increase of 28 percent. Of these, 20 country teams completed a comprehensive assessment aligned with their Cooperation Framework, while 77 submitted annual progress reports. Since 2018, 85 percent of country teams have implemented the scorecard.

Despite these encouraging figures, certain challenges continue limiting gender mainstreaming. These include the absence of robust gender analysis and sex-disaggregated data; under-resourced gender units; insufficient capacity assessment and capacity building, and unsustainable funding.

The report contains a range of recommendations aimed at accelerating gender mainstreaming across the UN system, leveraging the momentum of the **Systemwide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan**.

Strengthened efforts are still needed to ensure systematic gender mainstreaming, as envisaged in the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda. **This Council's catalytical role in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming remains vital.** Gender equality must be integrated into the entirety of the UN's work to achieve the potential to which we collectively aspire. UN Women looks forward to the adoption and subsequent implementation of the ECOSOC draft resolution on gender mainstreaming.

Thank you.