

As delivered

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Agenda Item 20a: Coordination, programme and other questions: Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

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

Aparna Mehrotra, Director, UN System Coordination Division, UN Women

Mr. Vice President, Distinguished delegates,

I am honored to introduce the Secretary-General’s report on “Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system”.

Mr. Vice President,

The UN system continued to reinforce gender mainstreaming and gender equality against the backdrop of socio-economic turbulence, conflicts and rollback of gender equality gains. The system’s support for gender mainstreaming and gender equality were demonstrated through leadership, accountability, data collection, research and analysis, knowledge generation, capacity development and training initiatives.

Notably, the Secretary-General launched the UN System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP) to embed gender perspectives more deeply across the United Nations system. In tandem, to drive progress and strengthen accountability, GEAP indicators were integrated into an updated UN-SWAP 3.0 framework.

Mr. Vice President,

Systemwide commitment to accelerating gender mainstreaming overall was clearly evidenced; 75 entities and 116 United Nations Country Teams reported on the UN SWAP and UNCT SWAP respectively. At the entity level, 54 entities prioritized gender equality in their strategic plans, with 42 reporting gender units and the use of the gender equality marker as a financial tracker. In contrast, 21 also cited limited resources as a barrier to full implementation.

At the country level, half (5 of 10) of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) with new Cooperation Frameworks integrated gender equality perspectives across outcomes and 40 per cent included a dedicated gender equality outcome.

In 2024, 79 per cent (104 of 132) of country teams had a Gender Theme Group or equivalent gender coordination mechanism, an increase from 77 per cent in 2023. These mechanisms enhance alignment with national priorities by strengthening country-level coordination of gender mainstreaming in planning and programming. Furthermore, 75 per cent of country teams (99 of 132) had one or more active joint programme focused on Goal 5, up from 73 per cent in 2023.

Gender mainstreaming also advanced across key thematic issues. According to UN-SWAP reporting, 58 entities aligned their strategic gender-related results with SDG 5, particularly women's leadership, and ending all forms of discrimination.

Mr. Vice President,

Despite progress, challenges persist, including insufficient gender-disaggregated data to inform gender mainstreaming; limited technical support to scale capacity

development and further strengthen accountability. Also, constraints in financial allocations are noticeable. Only 36 per cent (20 entities) met or exceeded gender-related financial benchmarks and 14 entities set targets but fell short. Another 22 entities reported they had yet to establish targets, largely due to resource limitations. This points to the need for increased and strategic investment, including for emerging development priorities, such as those related to demographic shifts and the rights and empowerment of significantly and rapidly increasing proportions of older women in all societies. By 2050 women over 50 years of age will comprise 35 per cent of the total female population or approximately 1.6 billion women. Today they comprise 27 per cent.

In conclusion, let us recall that gender mainstreaming was first adopted as a core strategy in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 30 years ago. It, however, remains as relevant today as it was then. Accordingly, we look forward to more decisive action and strengthened accountability, always guided and supported by the Council, to fully realize the promise and potential of the Platform including its call to fully embed the perspectives of gender equality in the programmes and policies of the UN system.

Thank you.