



25 YEARS AFTER BEIJING

A review of the UN system's support
for the implementation of the Platform
for Action, 2014-2019



IANWGE

United Nations Inter-Agency Network on
Women and Gender Equality

FOREWORD

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women and Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality



This report, the first of its kind, was initiated by the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), the single largest network of gender focal points in the UN system, in order to provide an overview of the UN system's work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. It covers the period 2014-2019 and presents the collective findings of how 51 UN entities have supported the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in that period. It demonstrates overall growth in scope and strength in the work to build an enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including in the context of UN reforms. In addition, the UN system's accountability for its work on gender equality has been harmonized and standardized to a very large extent with system-wide accountability frameworks in practice at both headquarters and country-team levels.

Today, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, hard won progress on gender equality and women's rights is increasingly precarious and has even been reversed, especially for marginalized groups of women and girls who face intersecting forms of discrimination. This is a vital moment for the UN system to assess progress, identify gaps and chart a way forward for future action. Gender equality

must be at the centre of concerted efforts to build back better in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Across every sphere, from health to the economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbated for women and girls. Working together, the UN system can support governments to ensure that the response is commensurate; jointly and individually taking action that consistently prioritizes the specific needs of women and girls in the immediate response and in short- and long-term recovery efforts.

The report is therefore a critical stocktaking for the UN system on both the extent of its progress, and the areas that are not yet sufficiently addressed. Amongst its findings, the report reveals that the UN system's highest priorities during the reporting period were: the elimination of violence against women and girls, transformation of discriminatory norms, the improvement of access to quality education, the expansion of women's political participation and women's entrepreneurship. Significant support has been provided by the entities of the UN system across these areas, with successes like the doubling of engagement in measures to prevent sexual harassment, including in the workplace; and an encouraging 71 per cent of UN entities focusing on combatting discriminatory norms to end violence against women and girls.

It also indicates gaps where focus and contributions need to be strengthened, especially in view of the current crises. Gender-responsive budgeting, financial and digital inclusion of women, gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and basic services and infrastructure, although increasingly important, are decreasingly prioritized. I urge action on these insights and a joint commitment to increasing allocations of UN development system expenditures to gender equality and women's empowerment significantly above the previously reported level of two per cent.

When we apply our common strength and resources to mutual objectives, our chances of achieving a critical mass of results are far stronger. Now more than ever, urgent, sustained and coordinated action by the UN system is needed to safeguard gender equality gains and advance the rights and well-being of women and girls everywhere.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was produced by UN Women's UN System Coordination Division in its capacity as the Secretariat of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Inputs for the report were provided by 51 UN system entities. Members of the IANWGE Working Group on CSW-64 and Beijing+25 peer reviewed the report.

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We extend our deepest thanks to the following UN entities and members of IANWGE that provided substantive inputs and feedback to the report:

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Yonca Gurbuzer (FAO),
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We are grateful for the support
received from across UN Women,
particularly from the following
colleagues who facilitated and
provided substantive inputs to
the report:

Alia El-Yassir, Alison Rowe,
Allyson Humphrey, Arpita Varghese,
Ayako Kubodera, Blerta Cela,
Brenda Bakwesegha, Carolin Schleker,
Caroline Meenagh, Dania Alrashed
Alhumaid, David Coffey,
Dina Deligiorgis, Elena Kudravnitseva,
Estela Bulku, Funmi Balogun,
Gabrielle Henderson, Ginette Azcona,
Hulda Ouma, Izeduwa Derex-Briggs,
Janette Amer, Jaya Jiwatram,
Julie Ballington, Julien Pellaux,
Juncal Plazaola Castano,
Kalliopi Mingeirou,
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Laura Capobianco, Marta Val,
Mehtap Tatar, Mitushi Das,
Mohammad Naciri,
Natasha Lamoreux, Nazneen Damji,
Oisika Chakrabarti, Oulimata Sarr,
Prim Devakula, Sabine Freizer,
Sandra Aslund, Seemin Qayum,
Toshihisa Nakamura, Zebib Kavuma.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBPF

Country-based Pooled Funds

CEB

United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination

CEDAW

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

CERF

Central Emergency Relief Fund

DCO

United Nations Development Coordination Office

DESA

United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs

DGACM

United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

DGC

United Nations Department of Global Communications

DMSPC

United Nations Department of Management, Strategy, Policy and Compliance

DOS

United Nations Department of Operational Support

DPO

United Nations Department of Peace Operations

DPPA

United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

ECA

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

ECE

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

ECLAC

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

ESCAP

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCWA

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FARDC

Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

FGM

Female Genital Mutilation

IAEG-GS

Inter-agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics

IAEG-SDGs

Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals

IANWGE

United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality

IASC

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

ICSC

International Civil Service Commission

ICT

Information and Communications Technology

ICESCR

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

IFAD

International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO

International Labour Organization

IOM

International Organization for Migration

ITC

International Trade Centre

ITU

International Telecommunication Union

LGBTI

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Persons

MDGs

Millennium Development Goals

MINUSCA

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated and Stabilization Mission

MONUSCO

United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

OCHA

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

ODA

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

OECD

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OHCHR

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

OHRLLS

United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

PAHO

Pan-American Health Organization

SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals

SGBV

Sexual and Gender-based Violence

SME

Small and Medium Enterprise

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

TVET

Technical and Vocational Education and Training

UN

United Nations

UN Women

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

UN-Habitat

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UN-SWAP

United Nations System-wide Action Plan

UNAIDS

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNCDF

United Nations Capital Development Fund

UNCT

United Nations Country Team

UNCT-SWAP

United Nations Country Team System-wide Action Plan

UNCTAD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDAF

United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

UNDRR

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNFCCC

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNFPA

United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

UNIDIR

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

UNIDO

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

UNITAR

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNOG

United Nations Office at Geneva

UNON

United Nations Office at Nairobi

UNOPS

United Nations Office for Project Services

UNOV/UNODC

United Nations Office at Vienna/
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNRISD

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

UNRWA

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

UNSDCF

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

UNU

United Nations University

UNV

United Nations Volunteers

UNWTO

World Tourism Organization

WFP

World Food Programme

WHO

World Health Organization

WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organization

WMO

World Meteorological Organization

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