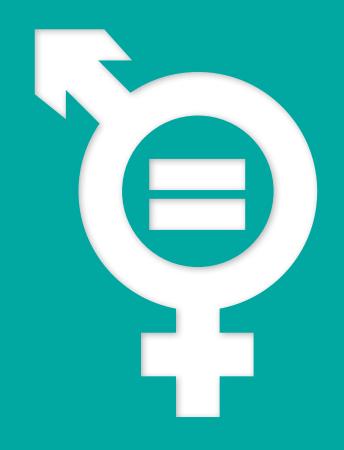




#### **FUND FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

ADVANCING WOMEN'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT







The multi-donor **Fund for Gender Equality** was launched in 2009 with a generous US\$65 million contribution from the Government of Spain — and joined subsequently with a US\$3.5 million contribution from the Government of Norway — to fast-track action on **women's economic and political empowerment** around the world. The Fund provides grants on a competitive basis directly to government agencies and civil society organizations and partnerships in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States, Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States and Latin America and the Caribbean

In line with the Monterrey Consensus (2002), the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005) and the Accra Agenda for Action (2008), and following the Development Assistance Committee Guiding Principles for Aid Effectiveness, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2008), the Fund is designed to maximize national ownership, harmonization and alignment by supporting nationally-owned and holistic strategies to advance commitments to the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs), the Beijing Platform for Action, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, and other global and regional agreements.



#### THE FUND PROVIDES TWO TYPES OF RESULTS-ORIENTED GRANTS:

**Implementation Grants** support innovative programmes in countries where local and/ or national gender equality plans, policies or laws have been agreed upon and are ready to be implemented and where these commitments can be effectively translated into tangible gains for women's rights around the world. These grants range from US\$1 million to US\$5 million distributed over a period of two to four years.

**Catalytic Grants** support the development of gender equality laws, policies and plans that will advance gender equality and women's rights around the world. Grants range from US\$100,000 to US\$500,000 distributed over a period of one to two years.

## ADVANCING WOMEN'S ECOMONIC AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

Grantees working on **Women's Economic Empowerment** are implementing a variety of programmes that include the advancement of social protections and equal opportunities and rights in the public and private sectors; the recognition of women's vital roles in economies of care and their contributions to national development in the formal and informal economies and in the domestic labor force; and the improvement of women's access to community development and control over goods and land, particularly in the context of the current economic and financial crises and their links with climate change and lack of food security.

Grantees working on **Women's Political Empowerment** are increasing women's political participation and good governance to ensure that decision-making processes are participatory, responsive, equitable and inclusive; increasing women's leadership and influence over decision-making in all spheres of life; and transforming gender equality policies into concrete systems for implementation to advance gender justice.

# AND FOCUS, WHICH INCLUDE:

making grants in countries and communities where concrete commitments to women's economic and political empowerment already exist

prioritizing programmes that involve partnerships between government and civil society actors

expanding the size and duration of grants

investing in technical support and capacities for grant recipients

## MANAGEMENT AND DECISION-MAKING FOR THE FUND

The Fund is managed by a Secretariat at UNIFEM (part of UN Women) in New York, and relies on its extensive field network in more than 80 countries and its UN partners worldwide to reach organizations around the globe and support the progress of grant recipients.

An independent Technical Committee, composed of Technical Experts on women's economic and political empowerment from every region of the world, supports the review and selection of grant proposals. In its inaugural year, the Fund relied on the expertise of 39 regional Technical Committee members who reviewed 1,239 applications in 5 languages from around the world.

The Fund is guided by a Steering Committee, composed of representatives from donor countries, UN and other multilateral actors, government agencies and women's civil society organizations. The Steering Committee advises on the overall design and policies of the Fund, as well as on the final selection of grantees.

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