

Recommendations of the Consultative Committee Members From the 48th Session of the Consultative Committee of UNIFEM 13-14 February 2008

The UNIFEM Consultative Committee (CC), which is composed of five Member States (Estonia, Chile, Korea, Norway and the Sudan) appointed by the President of the General Assembly, held its 48th session on 13-14 February 2008.

The CC expressed great appreciation to the Executive Director, ad interim and the staff of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for their work in the past year and made the following recommendations, designed to enhance the Fund's programming and organizational effectiveness.

The Consultative Committee:

1. *Emphasizes* that UNIFEM is an essential component of the United Nations gender architecture and in this respect *recommends* that UNIFEM continues to be actively involved in the processes leading to a stronger and more coherent UN architecture for gender equality and women's empowerment;

2. *Notes* with appreciation the successful implementation of the UNIFEM Multi-Year Funding Framework (MYFF), 2004-2007 and *welcomes* the decision 2007/35 of the Executive Board, which endorsed the strategic priorities of the UNIFEM Strategic Plan, 2008-2011;

3. *Requests* that UNIFEM reports to the CC annually on the Strategic Plan, 2008-2011, tracking progress according to the key results and indicators, including how it has utilized the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as a basis for programming, and *commends* ongoing efforts to ensure complementarity in the implementation of the Strategic Plans of UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF;

4. *Takes note of* the findings of the MYFF Evaluation conducted in 2007, and *encourages* UNIFEM to continue to act on its recommendations in the course of the implementation of its Strategic Plan, including the strengthening of its results tracking systems for annual reporting to more accurately reflect UNIFEM's specific role as an agent of change;

5. *Welcomes* UNIFEM's active participation in the One UN pilots to ensure that a gender perspective is fully integrated and *encourages* its continued involvement in and contribution to the One UN delivery initiatives;

6. *Encourages* UNIFEM to continue to cooperate with all relevant United Nations entities to further promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and *continues to believe* that UNIFEM should be invited to and participate on a regular basis in all high-level United Nations inter-departmental/-agency committees, bodies and meetings, and *recommends* specifically that the gender equality perspective be adequately reflected in the work of Chief Executives Board (CEB);

7. *Stresses* the importance of UNIFEM's input into the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and *encourages* UNIFEM to actively participate in the follow-up to the outcomes of CSW, as appropriate;

8. *Welcomes* UNIFEM's work as the Co-Chair of the undg Working Group on Programming Policy and the Chair of the undg Task Team on Gender Equality and *encourages* UNIFEM to continue to contribute to the strengthening of the United Nations country teams' coordinated support to countries to advance gender equality and women's empowerment;

9. *Encourages* UNIFEM to continue its work in supporting the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security;

10. *Encourages* UNIFEM to make substantive input into the Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Ghana, September 2008;

11. *Underlines* the importance of a strong gender equality perspective in the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, and encourages UNIFEM to continue to play an active role in the Financing for Development process, including the process leading to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development Doha in December 2008, in particular by sharing best practices and lessons learned;

12. *Encourages* UNIFEM to strengthen its work in support of gender responsive budgeting;

13. *Further encourages* UNIFEM to continue cooperating with relevant regional organizations and looks forward to the first report of the assessment of this collaboration at its next annual session;

14. *Welcomes* the work of the UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassadors and *takes note with appreciation* of the positive impact of their activities;

15. *Welcomes* the General Assembly resolution 62/135 on UNIFEM and encourages UNIFEM to proceed with the implementation of its paragraph 10 regarding the designation of fund representatives.

16. *Recalls* the General Assembly resolution 39/125, establishing UNIFEM, paragraph 6 of the annex regarding the role of the Consultative Committee in the appointment of the Executive Director of UNIFEM, and *looks forward* to the appointment of the next Executive Director;

17. *Commends* UNIFEM for having surpassed the projections identified for resource mobilization in the MYFF, 2004-2007 and the expansion of its partnerships with bilateral donors, civil society and private sector partners in the MYFF period and *encourages* the Fund to continue to broaden its donor base and to seek stronger

partnerships in order to meet resource mobilization targets in its Strategic Plan, 2008-2011;

18. *Approves* the UNIFEM request to invest in excess of \$1 million in core funds to strengthen its evaluation function at headquarters and in sub-regional offices;

19. *Decides* to discuss criteria for resource allocation at its next annual meeting, based upon a review of relevant information provided by UNIFEM;

20. *Invites* UNIFEM to review the format of reporting on resource mobilization especially with regard to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women;

21. *Acknowledges* the work of UNIFEM as manager of the UN Trust Fund and *emphasizes* that it is important that the UN Trust Fund retain its open nature and competitive process for selecting grantees based on the review of their proposals for innovative and practical efforts to address the multiple manifestations of violence against women;

22. *Recommends* that, in order to enable the UN Trust Fund to make larger and more long-term grants, as well as to potentially attract more donors, United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) are to be eligible for grants through joint proposals to fund their work with governments and NGOs on a test-case basis, to be reviewed in 2009 based on assessing how UNCTs' involvement enhances the effectiveness of the UN Trust Fund operations;

23. *Recommends* that, in order to more systematically extract lessons and share knowledge from the work of the UN Trust Fund grantees and the broader field of programming to end violence against women, UNIFEM invest a greater proportion of the Trust Fund resources in evaluation, knowledge management and adequate Trust Fund staffing arrangements at the global and regional levels;

24. *Decides* to convene inter-sessional meetings in 2008 as needed.