

Recommendations of the Consultative Committee Members From the 49th Session of the Consultative Committee of UNIFEM 17-18 March 2009

The UNIFEM Consultative Committee (CC), which is comprised of five Member States (Estonia, Chile, the Republic of Korea, Norway and the Sudan) appointed by the President of the General Assembly, held its 49th session on 17-18 March 2009.

The CC welcomed the appointment of the Executive Director and expressed great appreciation to the Executive Director 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, *recommends* that UNIFEM continue to be actively involved in the processes leading to a stronger and more coherent UN architecture for gender equality and empowerment of women, and in this respect *welcomes* General Assembly resolution 62/277 which, inter alia, aims at taking substantive action in this regard during the 63rd session of the General Assembly;
2. While *commending* the new reporting format, *requests* that UNIFEM continue to report to it annually on the Strategic Plan (SP), emphasizing the links between the inputs, outputs and outcomes and lessons learned, and tracking progress against the baseline 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 further *commends* ongoing efforts to ensure complementarity in the implementation of the Strategic Plans of UNIFEM, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF;
3. *Welcomes* UNIFEM's ongoing active participation in the One UN pilots to ensure that a gender perspective is fully integrated and *encourages* its contribution to the evaluation of the Delivering as One initiatives;
4. *Encourages* UNIFEM to continue to cooperate with all relevant United Nations entities to further promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, *continues to believe* that UNIFEM should participate in the High Level Committee on Programme (HLCP) and the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), the Executive Committee in Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), and especially *recommends* that UNIFEM be granted access to the Chief Executives Board (CEB) to make an input from the gender equality perspective;

5. *Encourages* UNIFEM to actively participate in the review processes of Beijing+15, MDGs+10, and CEDAW+30 with a view to providing input on the basis of its experience;

6. *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;

7. *Commends* UNIFEM's leadership of the UNDG Task Team on Gender Equality in the development and adoption of the UNDG Performance Indicators for UNCTs, *welcomes* UNIFEM's work as the Chair of the UNDG Working Group on Policy Issues 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 the empowerment of women;

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

9. *Welcomes* the gender equality perspective in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and *encourages* UNIFEM to continue to play an active role in the United Nations Financing for Development process;

10. *Recognizes* the impact of the financial and economic crisis on women and girls, and *encourages* UNIFEM to be an advocate for a gender perspective in the response of the United Nations development system to the crisis;

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

12. *Further encourages* UNIFEM to continue cooperation with relevant regional organizations and looks forward to the first report of assessment of this collaboration at an upcoming inter-sessional meeting in 2009;

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

14. *Commends* UNIFEM's ongoing advocacy campaign *Say No to Violence against Women* in support of the Secretary General's multi-year campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women and its participation in other inter-agency coordination efforts to end violence against women;

15. *Commends* UNIFEM for having surpassed the projections identified for resource mobilization in 2008 and the expansion of its partnerships with bilateral donors, civil society and private sector partners, and *encourages* the Fund to continue to broaden its resource base and to seek stronger partnerships in order to meet the resource mobilization targets in its Strategic Plan, 2008-2011;

16. *Recommends* that the Executive Director exercise the option to reduce up to a maximum of three percentage points from the percentage share in regular (core) resources of any under-delivering programme category or geographic region and reallocate the same amount to better performing geographic regions and categories, as appropriate, while ensuring compliance with the approved resource allocation over time;

17. *Requests* UNIFEM to provide an analysis of the criteria for resource allocation for a review of these by the CC at an inter-sessional meeting and its inclusion as an Annex in the Report on the implementation of the SP for the Annual Session of the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board;

18. *Recommends* that the UNIFEM Executive Director be able to exercise her authority to approve UNIFEM programme and project amounts in line with the delegated authority within UNDP and in accordance with the Instrument of Delegation of Authority to the UNIFEM Executive Director issued by the UNDP Administrator.

19. *Notes with appreciation* the establishment of the Gender Equality Fund and looks forward to its effective operation;

20. *Acknowledges* the work of UNIFEM as manager of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and *emphasizes* the importance of retaining its open nature and competitive process for selecting grantees;

21. *Decides* to convene inter-sessional meetings in 2009 as needed.