

United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Coordination Mechanism Terms of Reference

Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (TWG-GEEW) August 2016

Objective

To support the regional implementation of those elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that relate to gender equality and the empowerment of women by:

1. Providing regional inputs to the normative and analytical work undertaken at the global level and translating global mandates and norms to regional mandates through coordination of the work of the UN at the regional level, including on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations Against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), and outcomes of the BPfA review process.,
2. Supporting regional/sub-regional initiatives in specific areas which require coordinated effort by multiple agencies, with a specific focus on ASEAN, SAARC and Pacific sub-regions.
3. Ensuring that gender is mainstreamed into the UN and related processes at the regional level, with special focus on the gender equality and women's' empowerment dimension of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) regional roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. Selecting and implementing regionally oriented activities that will have the greatest impact toward moving forward the 2030 Agenda at country level and will work with the regional UNDG Peer Support Group for integration of common global and regional priorities, commitments and good practices in national and UN country team planning processes including UNDAFs, as may apply or be requested.
5. Contributing to the coordination efforts of the TWG on Statistics on strategy, process and mechanisms for gender statistics and data inputs for regional inputs to the global processes, and for regional implementation of global mandates, including follow-up and review of SDG progress.

Functions

6. The main functions that may be undertaken by the TWGs are: regional analyses and knowledge products that can be used for policy and advocacy work at the global, regional and country levels; information sharing and mapping of programmes and activities across the region; joint programming, including support to regional sectoral coordination mechanisms and organization of regional meetings; mobilize partners, including at the country level, in the development of and support to countries for utilization of regional analytical, normative and advocacy products as appropriate.¹

7. The core functions of the TWG-GEEW will be:
 - a. Regional analysis and knowledge products that could be used for policy and advocacy work at the global, regional and country levels;
 - b. Information sharing and mapping of programmes and activities across the region;
 - c. Joint initiatives, including support to regional sectoral coordination mechanisms and organization of regional meetings;
 - d. Joint advocacy and the mobilization of partners, including at the country level, in the development of and support to countries for utilization of regional analytical, normative and advocacy products as appropriate;
 - e. Maintreaming gender into UN and related processes at the regional level.

Organization

8. UN-Women and ESCAP will serve as Co-Chairs, and act as the joint secretariat to the TWG-GEEW. The Co-Chairs can make decisions on behalf of the TWG-GEEW if required, within the parameters of this Terms of Reference, summary record of previous meetings, the TWG-GEEW Annual Work Plan [Annex 1] and the Terms and Conditions for the RCM TWG-GEEW Trust Fund" [Annex 2]

9. The TWG-GEEW membership is open to all UN agencies. The TWG may decide to open participation to representatives of subregional intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, CSO's and bilateral and multilateral agencies, which should be decided at the TWG meeting.

¹ RCM chapeau text on TWG TORs, 26 April 2016

10. Each member agency will designate a focal point and an alternate at the highest level possible to facilitate collaboration. The cost of participation will be met by each participating agency. Member agencies may send observers to TWG-GEEW meetings if they wish. Observers for the TWG-GEEW meetings may also be invited on a case-by-case basis by the Co-chairs. The focal points represent their agency and are responsible for providing updates on their activities and plans. The focal point is also responsible for keeping their colleagues in the respective agencies informed on the activities of TWG-GEEW.
11. The TWG-GEEW will meet as deemed necessary, but at least two times a year. The agenda of each meeting will be circulated to members in advance by the TWG secretariat, including relevant background documents. A summary record of each TWG-GEEW meeting, reflecting recommended actions and outcomes, will be prepared by the secretariat, endorsed by the members and submitted to the RCM Secretariat for centralized records.
12. The TWG-GEEW will prepare an Annual Work Plan [Annex 1], with responsibilities, success indicators and projected timelines for activities, at the first quarter of each calendar year. The TWG-GEEW Co-chairs will report on implementation of planned activities at the meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) as required.
13. The TWG-GEEW could decide to establish mechanisms such as Working Groups and Task Forces, drawing on its members, to focus on longer term areas of shared work as well as time-bound specific tasks. These mechanisms will report on their work, including recommendations for consideration where appropriate, to the TWG-GEEW on a regular basis. Reports may also be made available to the Co-chairs between TWG-GEEW meetings as required. Cost of participation will be met by each participating agency.

RCM TWG-GEEW Trust Fund

14. A Trust Fund has been established under which the TWG-GEEW members pool financial resources for the implementation of activities jointly agreed by the TWG-GEEW. The Trust Fund is administered by ESCAP in accordance with the “Terms and Conditions for the RCM TWG-GEEW Trust Fund” and any interest earned will be credited to the Trust Fund (Refer Annex 2: Terms and Conditions for the RCM TWG-GEEW Trust Fund).

Monitoring and Evaluation

15. The TWG-GEEW will regularly assess its organization and functioning, including the mandates, relevance and responsibilities of its task forces and working groups. The TWG will prepare an annual work plan at the beginning of each year with the identification of a specific agenda for discussion at each TWG meeting. Implementation of the annual work plan will be monitored through meetings and reporting. Towards this end, the TWG will produce a summary record of each TWG meeting which will be circulated to RCM members. A detailed assessment of the TWG's relevance and effectiveness will be conducted after two years.

Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (TWG-GEEW)

2016 to 2017 Work plan

	Activity Description	Success Indicators	Responsible Lead Agency	Delivery time line	Resources/ Budget
1	<p>Advocacy activity</p> <p>a) Regional commemoration of International Women's Day</p> <p>b) 16 days of Activism on EAW, including commemoration of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women</p> <p>c) Regional advocacy on women, peace and security, with a focus on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related commitments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback from participants • Number of people reached by UN agencies jointly (social media and other events) 	<p>a) ESCAP and UN Women (TWG-GEEW Co-chairs)</p> <p>b) UN Women and UNFPA (co-chairs of the EAW working Group)</p> <p>c) UN Women and UNDP (Co-chairs of the Working Group on WPS)</p>	<p>a) 8 March (2016 and 2017)</p> <p>b) 25 Nov (2016 and 2017)</p> <p>c) October 2016-2017</p>	<p>a) \$6,000</p> <p>b) \$6,000</p>
2	<p>Analytical product</p> <p>a) Regional analysis of Financing for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Asia-Pacific</p> <p>b) Study on women's transformative leadership in AP region</p>	<p>The findings are shared with member States through related regional forums (including APFSD) and national workshops, feeding into policy development</p>	<p>a) ESCAP, UN Women and UNDP</p> <p>b) ESCAP, UN Women & UNDP</p>	<p>March-April 2017</p> <p>June-September 2017</p>	TBC
3	<p>EGM & Workshops</p> <p>a) Asia-Pacific EGM on Women, Peace and Security in conjunction with the launch of the Global Study on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional strategies and action plans developed in support of national implementation of 	<p>a) UN Women</p>	<p>a) 21-22 January 2016</p>	<p>a) \$30,000</p>

	<p>implementation of SCR 1325 on WPS</p> <p>b) Asia-Pacific Regional seminar in preparation for the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women</p> <p>c) Workshop on sex-disaggregated data for SDG indicators</p> <p>d) Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation in preparation for the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, February 2017 (TBC)</p>	<p>SCR1325 on WPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG data workshop outcomes feed into the development of a regional strategy for enhancing national capacity building on gender statistics 	<p>b) ESCAP, UN Women and UNDP</p> <p>c) ESCAP (SD), in collaboration with members of the TWG GEEW on Gender Statistics</p> <p>d) UN Women, ESCAP and other UN agencies tbc</p>	<p>b) 18-19 February 2016</p> <p>c) 25-27 May 2016</p> <p>d) 23-24 February 2017</p>	<p>b) \$40,000</p> <p>c) \$50,000</p>
4	<p>Mapping exercise</p> <p>(a) Mapping of UN entities' work with ASEAN or involving all ASEAN member countries</p> <p>(b) Mapping of peacebuilding initiatives in the region by the UN, including gender and non-gender initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN agencies have a more coherent understanding and approach to engaging with ASEAN bodies and regional meeting related to GEEW focusing on ASEAN members states • Comprehensive overview of the UN's peacebuilding work in the region and improved knowledge of potential collaboration 	<p>ESCAP and UN Women (Co-chairs of TWG GEEW)</p> <p>UN Women and UNDP (Co-chairs WG on WPS)</p>	<p>April - 30 September 2016</p> <p>April- December 2016</p>	<p>No financial resources. Staff time as in-kind contribution</p>