



1. The draft programme of work in the field of gender issues and advancement of women for the biennium 2008-2009, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Commission on the Status of Women in compliance with the United Nations Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.
2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, decided that the programme narratives of the programme budget fascicles shall be identical to the biennial programme plan. In this connection, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/254 approved the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, which incorporated the programme narrative (part two of the strategic framework), namely the objectives, expected accomplishments of the Secretariat, and indicators of achievement of subprogramme 2 (Gender issues and advancement of women).
3. The draft programme of work, which includes information on proposed outputs, has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 2 (Gender issues and advancement of women) of programme 7 (Economic and social affairs) of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.
4. Subprogramme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, falls under the responsibility of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
5. The draft programme of work of subprogramme 2 (see annex) has been formulated taking into account global mandates contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", the Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the relevant resolutions of the principal organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and commitments on gender equality contained in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit. The work programme under this subprogramme also includes outputs related to the servicing of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The substantive servicing of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is expected to be transferred to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

## Annex

### I. Part two of the strategic framework for the period 2008-2009: biennial programme plan on gender issues and advancement of women

#### Overall orientation

1. The programme will continue to emphasize the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes, which the 2005 World Summit recognized as an essential contribution to achieving gender equality and the internationally agreed development goals. The programme has played a leading role in fulfilling the Organization's responsibility to provide advice and support on this front.

#### Subprogramme 2 Gender issues and advancement of women

---

**Objective of the Organization:** to strengthen achievement of gender equality and the advancement of women, including women's full enjoyment of their human rights

---

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Advancements in gender equality and elimination of gender discrimination through support and promotion of the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the 2005 World Summit and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	(a) (i) Increased number of policies and actions taken at the national and regional levels to implement the Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the 2005 World Summit  (ii) Increased proportion, as appropriate, of resolutions of the General Assembly that incorporate a gender perspective
(b) Enhanced capacity of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to fulfil their mandates, including the promotion of gender mainstreaming in all political, economic and social spheres	(b) (i) The reduction in the current interval between the date of receipt of a State party's report and the date of its consideration by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women  (ii) Increased number of representatives of non-governmental organizations that participate in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women

- (c) Increased capacity of the United Nations system entities to mainstream gender perspectives and to undertake targeted measures to empower women in policies and programmes of the United Nations system
  - (c) (i) Increased number of actions taken by United Nations entities, individually and/or collaboratively, to incorporate gender perspectives in their policies, programmes and projects
  - (ii) Improved gender balance through effective implementation of gender-sensitive human resources policy measures by the United Nations system entities
- 

### **Strategy**

2. The Office of the Special Adviser on Women and Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women are responsible for the subprogramme. The strategy will include:

- (a) Promoting commitments and actions of Member States and intergovernmental bodies for the full and effective implementation of mandates relating to gender equality, especially those emanating from the 2005 World Summit, the Millennium Declaration, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and other resolutions and decisions, such as Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), as well as obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- (b) Promoting understanding of emerging issues on gender equality and the advancement of women, through research, analysis and provision of evidence-based policy options, and monitoring of gender mainstreaming in intergovernmental process outcomes;
- (c) Enhancing effective functioning of intergovernmental and expert bodies, including the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, through research and analysis, improving, rationalizing and streamlining existing methods of work and facilitating improving,

**Legislative mandates<sup>2</sup>**

**Programme 7  
Economic and social affairs**

*General Assembly resolutions*

60/140

*Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions*

- 76 (V) Communications concerning the status of women
- 304 (XI) Report of the Commission on the Status of Women (fourth session)
- 1992/19 Communications on the status of women
- 1996/6 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women
- 1998/26 Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development
- 1999/257 Enabling the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to carry out its mandate
- 2004/4 Review of Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
- 2005/43 Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women and girls
- 2005/232 Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

*Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions*

- 1997/2 Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

*Security Council resolutions*

- 1325 (2000) Women, peace and security

## **II. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009**

- 3. During the biennium, the following final outputs will be delivered:
  - (a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies:
  - (i) General Assembly:
    - a. Substantive servicing of meetings: substantive servicing, including

access to financial resources, including microfinance” (1); intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (2); trafficking in women and girls (1); violence against migrant women workers (1); report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Supplement (2); status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1); future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (2); improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (1);

(ii) Economic and Social Council:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: substantive servicing of plenary meetings (8); informal consultations on draft resolutions/agreed conclusions, as requested (8);

b. Parliamentary documentation: note by the Secretary-General transmitting the results of sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2); report on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (2);

(iii) Security Council:

a. Substantive servicing: substantive servicing of plenary meetings (4); informal consultations as requested (4); briefings for delegates and non-governmental organizations (6);

b. Parliamentary documentation: women, peace and security (2);

(iv) Commission on the Status of Women:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: open-ended consultations by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women (8); substantive servicing of meetings of the Commission (40); informal consultations on draft resolutions/agreed conclusions, as requested

organizations (40); list of confidential communications relating to the status of women (2); list of non-confidential communications relating to the status of women (2); note by the Secretary-General transmitting the results of sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2);

(v) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: substantive and technical servicing of pre-session working group meetings (60); substantive and technical servicing of Committee plenary and chamber meetings (236); substantive and technical servicing of working groups on the Optional Protocol (40); briefing for new members (2);

b. Parliamentary documentation: report of the Committee (2); reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (76); list of issues and questions with regard to consideration of periodic reports of States parties (76); responses of States parties to questions on periodic reports (76); conference room paper on the report of the pre-session working group (6); annotated agenda and organization of work of the Committee (6); status of submission of reports to the Committee (6); ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (6); report as requested on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (6); reports from United Nations specialized agencies and entities (24); decisions of the Committee under articles 2 and 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (12); identification of trends in implementation of specific articles of the Convention to be decided on or specific recommendations made by the Committee to assist it in its consideration of reports of States parties (6);

(vi) Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:

a. Substantive servicing of meetings: substantive and technical servicing of the meeting of States Parties (2);

b. Parliamentary documentation: agenda (1); list of candidates for the election of 12 members to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1); preparatory reports for the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1); report of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1); report on declarations, reservations, objections and notifications of withdrawal of reservations related to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1);

(vii) Ad hoc expert groups: expert group meetings on priority themes/issues decided by the Commission in its programme of work (2007-2009) (2); expert group meetings in preparation of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (2); expert group meeting on progress in training on gender mainstreaming (1); expert group meeting to review progress in national implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in Africa (1); breakfast round table (2); expert panels (8); interactive dialogue (2); high-level



round tables (4); joint preparatory panels with Non-governmental Organizations Committee on the Status of Women themes (4);

(b) Other substantive activities:

(i) Recurrent publications: *Women 2000 and beyond* (4); *The Work of CEDAW* (CD-ROM) (2); *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (1); *Network* (8);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications: “Challenging stereotypical attitudes and behaviour which hinder achievement of equality between women and men” (1); best practices in implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (1); status of gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system (1); operational toolkit on gender mainstreaming in development instruments at the national level (1);

(iii) Technical material: reports of expert group meetings on priority themes/issues decided by the Commission in its programme of work (2007-2009) (2); reports of Expert Group Meetings in preparation of the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (2); report of expert group meeting on progress in training on gender mainstreaming (1); report of expert group meeting to review progress in national implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in Africa (1); guidelines, checklists and tools on gender mainstreaming (1); guidelines, checklist and tools on implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security (1); selective roster of women candidates in the United Nations Secretariat and peacekeeping and special missions (2); further development, design, maintenance and management of the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis (2); further development, design, maintenance and management of the website of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on an annual basis (2); further development, design, maintenance and management of WomenWatch website on an annual basis (2);

(iv) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (8); intersessional meetings (24);

(v) Documentation for inter-agency meetings: report of the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (2);

(vi) Special events: non-governmental organizations orientation sessions (4).