

GLOBAL CALL FOR ACTION ON FINANCING GENDER EQUALITY

Participants at the High Level Global Meeting on '*Increasing Accountability and Development Effectiveness through Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting*' in Kigali, Rwanda on this day 28 July 2011 representing Ministries of Finance, Sector Ministries, local authorities, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, bilateral and multilateral agencies and expert academics:

Reiterate the importance of implementing national commitments on gender equality in line with the Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

Note the importance of building national capacities for gender responsive planning and budgeting;

In light of the upcoming OECD Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) to be held in Busan South Korea from 29 November -1 December 2011, look to the outcome document and deliberations leading up to HLF4 to address challenges that are impeding progress on implementing gender equality commitments and safeguard progress made to date;

Emphasize that the outcome document must be fully coherent with national and international policies for gender equality and women's rights and demonstrate strengthened commitment of development partners and partner countries to harmonize action on gender equality within broader policy frameworks including aid, trade and investment policies;

Welcome the recommendations for concrete commitments and monitorable actions on gender equality from the OECD Gender and Development Network, women's organizations within the Better Aid Coordinating Group; Call for Action by the host government of the HLF4 - the Government of Korea, and UN Women;

Recognize that improved monitoring indicators to enhance accountability for gender equality in the outcomes of HLF IV can play a pivotal role in narrowing the gaps between visionary commitments to gender equality and slow progress on their implementation, especially for the poorest women and girls.

We call on decision-makers in Busan, including new development cooperation partners, to commit to:

Improved accountability, capacity, data and monitoring to advance gender equality through:

- Fulfillment of commitments from the Accra Action Agenda by targeting increased support for capacities of national systems to generate sex disaggregated data on sector performance for decision making;

- Enhanced transparency on financing for gender equality through improvements to and use of ODA tracking systems of the OECD DAC gender marker; as well as national budget tracking systems;
- Strengthened capacity to design and implement gender equitable policies and programmes;
- Expansion of support to civil society to use participatory monitoring approaches and generate quality evidence-based policy recommendations for national, local and sector planning and budgeting;
- Use of evidence generated from gender responsive budgeting to inform financing decisions in national partner and development partner countries.

Adequate quality, quantity and predictability of financing for gender equality and women's empowerment:

- Match gender equality commitments from National Action Plans on Gender Equality, as well as legal and constitutional commitments, with robust financing, including in sector and local budgets and, where appropriate, through use of special funds for gender equality;
- Strengthen performance based budgeting with a clear focus on performance indicators for tracking results related to addressing gender inequality;
- Intensify support for capacity development in Ministries of Finance, local governments and other government departments to institutionalize gender responsive budgeting and planning on a sustainable basis;
- Ensure that public finance management systems incorporate gender responsive budgeting and processes and ensure that development partners align with these rapidly evolving country-based systems;
- Encourage partner countries to tax the output generated by new sources of aid and invest the revenues to advance gender equality commitments;
- Develop tailored policy measures for addressing women's priorities in countries in post conflict and fragility including financing arrangements.

A place at the table for gender equality advocates

- Enable gender equality advocates in government agencies and civil society organizations to effectively participate in development policy-making, aid coordination including budget and sector support coordination mechanisms and joint reviews;, and results monitoring
- Strengthen partnerships between Ministries of Finance and Planning and Ministries of Gender Equality or equivalent national women's machineries; and women's organizations and networks in ensuring adequate financing for gender equality commitments.

Participants encourage UN Women to:

- Support the building of a common approach within the UN system to track and report on financing for gender equality;

- Galvanize significantly increased support for south-south cooperation in the implementation of gender responsive budgeting;
Convene a technical group to explore differences and similarities in methodologies for tracking financing and their impacts in order to facilitate the development of common approaches for tracking financing for gender equality.
- Ensure that the UN Development Cooperation Forum and other UN processes integrate gender equality in post 2015 development and financing for development frameworks.

Participants call upon development partners and partner countries to commit to bold and concrete action on increasing financing for gender equality.