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Commission on the Status of Women**Fifty-sixth session**

27 February-9 March 2012

Agenda item 3 (a) (ii)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: review theme: financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women**Progress in financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women from the perspective of international organizations and multilateral development partners****Moderator’s summary**

1. On 1 March 2012, the Commission on the Status of Women held an interactive dialogue to discuss experiences in implementing the agreed conclusions on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-second session in 2008 (E/2008/27-E/CN.6/2008/11, chap. I, sect. A). The interactive dialogue was organized in the form of two panel discussions: the first panel discussion focused on national experiences in implementing the agreed conclusions. The second panel discussion, which is the focus of the present report, addressed the experiences of international organizations and multilateral development partners in implementing the agreed conclusions.
2. The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Irina Velichko (Belarus). Panellists included Ms. Lydia Alpizar Durán, Executive Director, Association for Women’s Rights in Development; Ms. Jeni Klugman, Director of Gender and Development, World Bank; Ms. Saraswathi Menon, Director of the Policy Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); Ms. Liane Schalatek, Associate Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation, North America; and Ms. Patti O’Neill, Coordinator of the Network on Gender Equality of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee.
3. The call for increasing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women, as contained in the 2008 agreed conclusions on financing for gender

funds and individual philanthropists are contributing to an increase in available funding streams for gender equality and the empowerment of women. These resources benefit Governments as well as women's organizations. Innovative partnerships have been developed that engage Governments, women's non-governmental organizations and new actors, in particular the private sector. These partnerships promise to open up new funding sources.

10. The development and use of tracking systems for financing for gender equality has enhanced and contributed to the availability of sex-disaggregated data and gender-specific information. Such data and information are essential for strengthening transparency and accountability for financing for gender equality, and for filling knowledge gaps about what works, the impact of measures taken and the results achieved. Data generated through tracking and monitoring systems increasingly provide the evidence to inform and influence decision-making processes at the strategic and policy levels and shape programmes and projects.

11. The Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2011, and the resulting Busan partnership for effective development cooperation represented a major step forward in strengthening commitments for action to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women through development programmes. The Busan outcome document is expected to result in the strengthened collection, dissemination, harmonization and use of data disaggregated by sex to inform policy decisions and guide investments. The deadline of June 2012 for setting up monitoring arrangements for the outcome document is a major opportunity to further systematize these data-collection and monitoring methods across donors.

Gaps and challenges in implementation

12. Despite progress in the implementation of the 2008 agreed conclusions, the interactive dialogue revealed a number of concerns. The impact of the economic and financial crises, insufficient political will and inadequate prioritization of gender equality goals in global and national development agendas is visible in the actual availability of resources, which does not keep pace with needs. Such lack of funding is also indicated in recent surveys, such as those conducted by the Association for Women's Rights in Development, and practice. For example, over the past four years, access by women's organizations to funding from bilateral and multilateral partners has remained limited. Funding for UN-Women remains significantly below the target, almost two years after its establishment.

13. Existing markers for tracking gender equality funding and gender-responsive financing, while highly useful, cannot yet measure gender equality results or the impacts and outcomes of programmes and projects. Tools that can effectively measure the quality and impact of development assistance, including evaluations, audits and reviews, are lacking. Frameworks and standards established to monitor performance rarely integrate gender-sensitive indicators. Existing gender equality markers also cannot capture the gender equality dimensions of official development assistance that is disbursed as direct budget support, nor of humanitarian and emergency assistance.

(j) Ensure funding for UN-Women to enable it to fulfil its mandate effectively;

(k) Accelerate efforts towards the adoption of a United Nations system-wide marker for tracking budget allocations and expenditures to promote gender equality;

(l) Strengthen and expand support for women's organizations, especially by a commitment to sustainable funding;

(m) Put in place special provisions to ensure that small grass-roots organizations and organizations that work with marginalized groups of women have