

C 2013/3- Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15

Information Note no. 7 - June 2013

Increasing the integration and visibility of the gender function in FAO's work

Summary: This note provides information on organizational arrangements being put in place by the Director-General in response to requests from member countries to ensure that FAO's gender-related function is integrated and receives due visibility in the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15. In particular, in the PWB 2014-15 the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC) will be renamed the Office for Partnerships, Gender, Advocacy and Capacity Development.

I. Integration of the gender function in the PWB 2014-15

1. The Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2014-15 integrate the role of the gender-related function by mainstreaming gender considerations across the span of the Organization's activities as a theme cutting across the five new Strategic Objectives (SOs).¹ The strategy, approach and quality of services for the cross-cutting work on gender will be ensured and measured using key performance indicators under the sixth objective in the MTP/PWB.²

2. In this way, the new results framework for the Organization outlined in the MTP/PWB provides greater transparency and assurance for integration of gender in all activities of the Organization. It is also consistent with the Conference decision in 2009 that "*gender will be fully integrated into the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan and will no longer have a separate Gender and Development Plan of Action.*"³

3. The Strategic Objective Action Plans are being developed and will be implemented with due attention to the gender cross-cutting theme so as to ensure that gender perspectives and approaches are fully integrated into the programmatic work of the Organization. In addition, gender experts have been appointed to each Strategic Objective core team. All this will ensure full alignment of gender requirements throughout the development, implementation, monitoring and reporting phases of the PWB 2014-15.

II. Increasing visibility of the gender function in the organizational structure

4. In responding to requests made by member countries during discussion of the MTP/PWB proposals, the Director-General has now taken measures to adjust organizational arrangements in order to ensure that FAO's gender-related function achieves top-level visibility, in addition to its integration in the substantive work and approach of the Organization.

5. At its 146th session in April 2013, the Council "*stressed the importance of... gender-related activities*" in the context of the MTP/PWB.⁴ It also endorsed the request of the March 2013 Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees that "*due visibility be given to gender*" within the

¹ C 2013/3 MTP/PWB, paragraphs 18-19 and 423-430

² C 2013/3 MTP/PWB, paragraph 410.3

³ CR 10/2009, operative paragraph 1 (b) (ii)

⁴ CL 146/REP, paragraph 9e)



organizational structure.⁵ This point was emphasized by member countries in ensuing discussion on the MTP/PWB, in particular during interventions at the first meeting of the group of Friends of the Chair on 22 May 2013.

6. Accordingly, the Director-General has decided to institute arrangements so as to give increased visibility to gender within the organizational structure of FAO. All technical work related to gender studies and policy analysis will remain in its current location in ES Department within the ESW division renamed as the Social Protection Division (ESP), which will also be responsible for coordinating the cross-cutting theme on gender under the reviewed Strategic Framework and providing technical support for the SO core teams.

7. In addition to the existing technical work related to gender studies and policy analysis in ESP, expertise relating to gender advocacy, partnerships and capacity building will be consolidated and enhanced within the Office of Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC).⁶

8. This enhancement of OPC will leverage natural synergies and complementarities between gender work and the partnerships, advocacy and capacity development function. It will also serve to further raise the profile of gender by placing it in for the first time in the Apex of the organizational structure with a direct reporting line to the Director-General.

9. OPC will be thus be responsible for a number of gender-related functions, including:

- a) engaging external partners from a gender perspective within the UN and multilateral system, the private sector, civil society and women's organizations, and others;
- b) advocating the uptake of gender-sensitive and socially equitable options in food and agriculture policies of member governments;
- c) supporting member countries and FAO staff at headquarters and in decentralized locations in order to develop and enhance capacity to subsume gender perspectives aimed at more effective programmes and policies; and
- d) supporting the implementation of the gender cross-cutting theme within the reviewed Strategic Framework.

10. Accordingly, in the PWB 2014-15 OPC will be renamed the Office for Partnerships, Gender, Advocacy and Capacity Development.

⁵ CL 146/5, paragraph 4d)

⁶ C 2013/3, paragraphs 228-229