

UNDP Regional Service Centre for LAC

MINUTES

Regional Programme Thematic Advisory Board in Gender

August 25th, 2011

Participants

Chair: **Fredy Justiniano**, Director a.i. RSCLAC
Carmen de la Cruz, Gender Practice Leader

Board Members: RR/RCS

Susan Mc Dade, CR/RR Uruguay
Alfredo Missair, CR/RR Venezuela
Silvia Rucks, CD Colombia
Jose Eguren, RR a.i Honduras
Martín Santiago, CR/RR Argentina
Barbara Pesce-Montero, CR/RR Cuba
Marcia de Castro, CR/RR Trinidad y Tobago
Luiza Carbalho, CR/RC Costa Rica

Governments

Beatríz Ramírez, INMUJERES Director, Uruguay¹
Claudia Graciela Salas Rodríguez, General Director of the institutionalization of PEG
Clara Edith Muñoz Márquez, Director of the institutionalization and promotion of PEG in States and municipalities of INMUJERES Mexico²

Regional experts and associations of women (NGOs, Academy)

Evangelina García Prince, Specialist in gender equality public policies and international consultant

Cecilia Barraza, Director of *Corporación Humanas*, Colombia
Juana Camargo, Member of *El espacio de Encuentro de Mujeres*, Panama

BDP Gender Team and Gender focal points of the country offices

Virginia Varela, Gender Focal Point PNUD Uruguay
Amalia Alarcón, Gender Focal Point PNUD Colombia
Inalvis Rodríguez, Gender Focal Point PNUD Cuba
Raissa Crespo, Gender Focal Point PNUD Dominican Republic
Raquel Lagunas, Responsible for institutional development, Gender Team BDP

Partner UN agencies

Carmen Rosa Villa, Regional Representative for Central America of the OHCHR
Ana Guezmes, Regional Director of UN Women for Mexico, Central America, Cuba and Dominican Republic

Resource Persons: **Neus Bernabeu**, Coordinator of the Regional Project *América Latina Genera* and gender specialist in the Practice Area.

¹Absence of the guest due to delays in connecting flights from her country of origin to Panama.

²Absence of the guest due to a last-minute institutional emergency.

- The minutes are organized in two sections; a first one is the action section in which comments and discussions led to recommendations that require follow up actions that will be tracked by the RSC management. The second section contains a record of different important comments that were received throughout the meeting. Most of these will require to be considered but do not need a clearly identified action.

1. Agreements and follow up actions

ISSUES DISCUSSED/ CONSLCUSIONS/AGREEMENTS	Main objective of the Advisory Board meeting:		
	To oversee the overall performance of the Regional Service Center and of the Regional Programme, particularly in terms of the quality and efficiency of its services and its support to Country Offices to respond to corporate commitments on gender equality and to the implementation of UNDP Global Gender Equality Strategy. Provide feed-back and advice on the direction of regional priorities of the Gender Practice Area for next year.		
	Issue	Recommendations or Findings	Next Steps
	RSC-LAC submission for revision of 2009-2011 priorities and achievements	<p>Overall, the Board expressed satisfaction with the achievements of the area and is valued very positively. Priorities and actions implemented so far are considered appropriate and relevant, emphasizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The efficiency and effectiveness of the area which has made it possible to attain great achievements despite of the resources constrains • Accountability and mechanisms generated by the area for this purpose. • The commitment to partnerships as a key strategy. • The contribution to the construction of a strategic vision altogether with the country offices. • The generation of spaces for dialogue and exchange, and spaces for political and strategic discussion. • The knowledge management strategy implemented and the link between the political and the technical aspect. • The conceptual update and the innovation approach 	
Adjustments and Recommendations to be tracked by	<p>The following recommendations have been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen Human rights-based approach and the issue of Human Rights to be mainstreamed in all work areas and within the implementation and 	Strengthen coordination with various actors, but especially with: 1) UN women as institutional architecture of gender within the	

RSC-LAC	<p>acceleration of the MDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact assessment: Count on specific data systems and indicators to measure progress in the four areas of action proposed. • Addressing more explicitly the effective transfer of knowledge through methodologies, ways of joint work, South - South cooperation, etc. • Develop a marketing and communication strategy of the area. • Deepen into the subject of diversity in the direction already marked by the area (diverse parliaments and thematic approach). • Continue setting accountability mechanisms including civil society more explicitly. • Continue working with the country offices through thematic groups in order to develop and strengthen sectoral capacities • Continue and strengthen inter clusters relations with joint specific products. • Explore if America Latina Genera Portal should be directed to a varied and diverse audience or to a specialized one. • Improve coordination among Spanish-speaking countries in the region and the Anglophone Caribbean considering the problems and the progress already made in it. While the area has developed some initiatives, there is need for a political decision that can drive the process. 	<p>system. (2) ILO, within the framework of social protection issues, unpaid domestic work, migration and paid work.</p> <p>Implement an impact assessment during 2012</p> <p>Give more visibility throughout America Latina Genera to good practices in the region and the establishment of alliances and collaborations.</p> <p>Promote a thematic and strategic action in the Caribbean.</p>
Priorities for next two years	<p>The focus priorities correspond to the priority themes identified by the board::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic governance • Environment • Poverty, inequality and MDGs • Security and Crisis Prevention / conflict resolution <p>The board recommend some adjustments in specific areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Governance: it is suggested that in addition to political participation the following issues should be addressed: the relationship with the legitimacy of the governance structures and the efficiency of public policies. Furthermore address the issue of local governance. 	<p>Elaboration of a 2012-2013 Action Plan and an advocacy plan, facing the next UNDP planning process (Framework of Cooperation) in order to mainstream gender in programming and align it to UNDP cluster and UN agencies priorities.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special attention should be paid to equality public policies (technical, political and economic support) and the Gender Equality Mechanisms.• Resume more forcefully the issue of Citizen Security in the Central American region and The Caribbean• Special attention to gender approach in countries with special contexts (conflict, crisis, natural disasters). Implement a humanitarian-based approach work for Colombia and Haiti from a regional perspective.• Highlight young women and Afro-descendant and indigenous women specificity in the diversity approach.• Special attention should be paid to sustainable development debates towards Rio+ 20.•	
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2. Other important comments expressed at the Board meeting about the RSC-LAC performance and requests for change.

In addition to the above comments, other issues emerged during the meeting to be considered by the area, the Regional Centre and UNDP in general (Latin America and the Caribbean):

- 1) The need for **capacity development** of the country offices: the strengthening of the capacities of country offices on gender issues and "moving from officials to leaders" are seen as a priority. It is a condition to increase the gender portfolio in the region together with resources investment strategies on the subject with annual targets at RBLAC (It was mentioned the need of a the policy proposal of budget tracking at 15%). Counting on a group of UNDP Resident Representatives as a leader group of the political work looks like an opportunity.
- 2) **Gender marker:** The importance of utilizing of UNDP tools – such as the gender marker – promoting follow-up and accountability for gender equality
- 3) **Enforceability and accountability:** UNDP has legitimacy and tools as well as an articulated policy to address and demand human rights protection and attention which mandates are commitments ratified by the states. It is settled in the universal periodic Report where gender has become a key issue. A clear opportunity in the support given to Governments for their next reports has been identified.
- 4) It is necessary to take advantage of the collaborations in particular with **UN Women** on gender issues and the system-wide through the **MDGs work**. In particular the MDG 3 (political participation) can be met if greater efforts are devoted (considered local participation as the great challenge) with the clarification that the target is the parity and not the quota itself. Parity as a matter of public and private life. There is a need of a major work with citizens and not only with women who have already accessed to a political position. MDGs and human rights-based framework is our work framework.
- 5) It is suggested to resume the exercise of **evaluation by the Board** at end of 2011, since there will be important political milestones: Río+20; Forum of Indigenous Women; Commission on the Status of Women, preparations of Beijing+20. In addition to establishing clear advocacy strategies.
- 6) There are several **pending issues** as UNDP that should be considered in relation to UNDP inter-agency work:
 - Human trafficking.
 - Justice: Harmonization of national legislation with international standards; Participation of women in administration justice systems, treatment of crimes of gender-based violence under the heading of the definition of punishment, prison policies and prison conditions.
 - Corruption, impunity and the relationship with organized crime from the perspective of Human Rights.

AGENDA

Regional Programme Thematic Advisory Panel in Gender August 25th, 2011

Panama City, City of Knowledge, Building 128, Ground Floor

9:00 – 9:10	Welcome remarks from the Director of the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean
9:10 – 9:50	Review of the role and functions of the Advisory Board on Gender <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction to the Regional Programme Document (RPD)- Context of the region on gender equality- Strengthens and challenges of UNDP.
9:50 – 10:20	The contributions of UNDP in LAC region: the Gender Practice Area and GENERA Programme. I. The expected effects of Gender of the Regional Programme and planned outcomes (IWP) 2009-2010. II. Contributions of Gender Practice Area and the GENERA programme III. The Knowledge Portal GENERA IV. Challenges The Way Forward: Priorities for the next two years
10:20 – 11:30	Discussion of key findings and recommendations
11.30 – 12.15	The Way Forward: Priorities for the next two years
12.15 – 13.15	Discussion on the proposal and recommendations
13.15-14.15	Lunch

ANEXOS:

- Informe del Área de Práctica de Género 2009-2011
- Informe Proyecto GENERA, y propuesta de extensión
- Informe Proyecto Trabajo y Familia.