

14 October 2020

Dear Ms. Algayerova,

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well.

I thank you and your staff for your support to UN Women in its UN system coordination mandate at both HQ and the regional and country levels. We especially appreciate your continued support and commitment to the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP).

In this context, I would like to bring your attention to the attached Secretary-General's report on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system ([E/2020/50](#)), which presents an overview of system-wide accomplishments, challenges and good practices related to the second year of implementation of the UN-SWAP 2.0, as well as the subsequent resolution ([E/2020/L.15](#)) adopted by ECOSOC.

The infographic package accompanying this letter provides a summary of (1) system-wide reporting results; (2) reporting results specific to UNECE; and (3) information on UNECE's progress towards gender parity. Performance information by entity, in execution of the recommendations of the 2019 JIU review of the UN-SWAP, is available on the UN Women website.

With specific reference to UNECE's UN-SWAP 2.0 reported results for 2019, UN Women commends UNECE for the following achievements:

- **Conducting an evaluation to assess corporate performance on gender mainstreaming in UNECE's programmes.** UN Women is pleased to note that in 2019 UNECE conducted a programme-level evaluation to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of gender mainstreaming in UNECE and the related results on gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women encourages UNECE to utilize the evaluation's findings to continue to strengthen its programmatic work.
- **Strengthening gender mainstreaming in the work of Sectoral Committees.** Impressively, in 2019 UNECE increased the number of intergovernmental bodies and their subsidiaries that have included gender in their work from 3 to 8, and thereby

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Executive Secretary
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Geneva

exceeded its Proposed Programme Budget's expected accomplishment on strengthening gender mainstreaming in the work of UNECE Sectoral Committees.

Importantly, UN Women takes this opportunity to recognize the continued dedication of UNECE's Gender Focal Points. We particularly thank Malinka Koparanova for her commitment and coordination of the UN-SWAP to further UNECE's exemplary progress on gender equality.

To build on the momentum of UNECE's achievements, and to ensure increased performance in areas of weakness, UN Women encourages UNECE to:

- **Strengthen the gender architecture.** In order to “meet” requirements for the UN-SWAP 2.0 performance indicator on Gender Architecture, and in order to improve actionability, we encourage UNECE to consider putting in place a gender unit that is fully resourced in its organizational structure.
- **Steadily increase financial resource allocations for gender-related activities.** In 2019, UNECE “approached” requirements for the UN-SWAP 2.0 indicator on Financial Resource Allocation. While understanding the limiting financial context, it is important that UNECE allocates sufficient resources to promoting gender equality.

Finally, we invite you to respond to this letter with plans for further implementing the UN-SWAP 2.0, particularly addressing the areas of concern we highlight above. Also, please know that in view of the COVID-19 crisis and the need to pivot our work accordingly, the next reporting cycle will include a tag for COVID-19 and gender related programming results. This will be added to the current tagging focused on the SDGs.

For further clarifications, Aparna Mehrotra, Director, Division for UN System Coordination, and her team, who lead the UN-SWAP at UN Women, remain available and may be reached at aparna.mehrotra@unwomen.org.

Looking forward to our continued and strong collaboration.

Yours sincerely,



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director