

14 July 2021

Dear Ms. Algayerova,

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well.

I write to thank you and UNECE staff for your continuous support and commitment to UN Women in its UN system coordination mandate. We especially appreciate your dedication 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 to your attention the attached [Secretary-General's report on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system](#), which presents an overview of system-wide accomplishments, challenges and good practices related to implementation of the UN-SWAP 2.0, as well as the subsequent [resolution adopted by ECOSOC](#).

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

With specific reference to UNECE's UN-SWAP 2.0 reported results for 2020, UN Women commends UNECE for the following achievements:

- Strengthened accountability for gender equality and the empowerment of women as a result of the development and implementation of UNECE's Gender Action Plan for 2020. UN Women commends UNECE for improving gender mainstreaming in its sub-programmes, including in the work of Sectoral Committees, Working Parties and at the project level.
- Maintaining strong evaluation practices with a gender lens and utilising the findings of UNECE's 2019 corporate evaluation of gender mainstreaming to continue to strengthen its programmatic work.

Ms. Olga Algayerova  
Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
Geneva

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:

- Incorporate high-level results on gender equality as key strategic outcomes in UNECE's programme budget to strengthen organisation-wide commitments and ensure that UNECE is able to measure performance and communicate achievements.
- Approve, publish and initiate implementation of UNECE's new Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEEW) 2021-2025. UN Women recognises and commends UNECE on its diligent update of its gender policy in order to integrate GEEW across all aspects of UNECE's work.
- Increase human and financial resources for the implementation of gender-related activities to ensure UNECE's capacity to meet its gender mainstreaming commitments.

Finally, we invite you to respond to this letter and communicate your plans for further implementing the UN-SWAP 2.0, particularly addressing the areas of concern we highlight above.

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](mailto:aparna.mehrotra@unwomen.org).

As I prepare to finish my second term as UN Women Executive Director in August, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your strong support and that of UNECE throughout my tenure. UN Women can only accomplish its full mandate with the support and contributions of all UN organizations and colleagues. While much work remains to be done, I am proud of our collective achievements and look forward to seeing future successes of UN Women and the UN system on gender equality and women's empowerment in the coming years, as we approach the deadline for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Yours sincerely,



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director