



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 August 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session

Items 25 and 28 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Advancement of women

Activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, prepared pursuant to Assembly resolution 39/125.

* A/65/150.



Summary

The present report provides a review and update of progress of the programme and activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as framed in its strategic plan, 2008-2013. The report tracks overall progress and highlights concrete results of the support that UNIFEM provided to countries in 2009. The report concludes with a set of recommendations on the ways in which the development effectiveness and organizational effectiveness of UNIFEM can be further strengthened.

This is the last report to be submitted in fulfilment of the mandate set out in resolution 39/125, given that UNIFEM has been dissolved and is now part of the composite United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN Women, established by the Assembly in its resolution 64/289.

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Context	3
III. Overview	4
IV. Development results framework	7
A. Enhancing women's economic security and rights	8
B. Ending violence against women	11
C. Halting the spread of HIV and AIDS among women and girls	13
D. Advancing gender justice in democratic governance	15
E. Gaps and challenges: development results framework	17
V. Management results framework	17
A. Policy advice and catalytic programming (Area 1)	17
B. United Nations coordination and reform (Area 2)	18
C. Accountability, risk and oversight (Area 3)	20
D. Administrative, human and financial capacities (Area 4)	20
E. Gaps and challenges: management results framework	20
VI. Integrated resources framework	21
VII. Recommendations	21

I. Introduction

1. On 2 July 2010, in its resolution 64/289, the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) “by consolidating and transferring to the Entity the existing mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, as well as those of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women”. The new entity will also assume “the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women ...”.

2. Until replaced by a new strategic plan, UNIFEM (to become part of UN Women) will report on its current plan for 2008-2013. The overall goal of the plan is to ensure that national commitments to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment are implemented in stable and fragile States. The Executive Board authorized implementation of the plan (DP/2007/45) in its decision 2007/35 and extended it in decision 2009/13. UNIFEM works in partnership with Governments, civil society and United Nations organizations to strengthen women’s economic security and rights, end violence against women, reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among girls and women and advance gender justice in democratic governance, including in conflict-affected and post-conflict countries.

3. The strategic plan contains the elements of the UNIFEM accountability framework, against which UNIFEM measures: (a) its contributions to progress on gender equality at the national, regional and global levels, on the basis of the outcomes, outputs and corresponding indicators in the development results framework; (b) its performance, on the basis of the outputs, indicators and targets in its managing for results framework; and (c) its progress towards mobilizing, allocating and expending the financial resources required for implementing the plan, as laid out in its integrated resources framework and in accordance with Executive Board decision 2004/20.

4. The present report covers the second year of implementation of the UNIFEM strategic plan for 2008-2013.

II. Context

5. Over the past 30 years, far-reaching commitments to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment have been agreed at the global, regional and national levels. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) and the Millennium Development Goals continue to serve as relevant normative frameworks, along with notable new commitments made in 2009, including Security Council resolutions 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). Furthermore, numerous regional agreements are evidence of the increasingly solid normative platform for gender equality, including, but not limited to, the Convention of Belém do Pará in Latin America and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. At the same time, women continue to face the enormous challenges arising from the global economic

crisis, conflict and natural disasters, gender-based violence and the HIV epidemic. Effective implementation is central to ensuring that these agreements are converted into concrete, measurable progress for women and girls.

III. Overview

6. UNIFEM is a demand-driven organization, responding to requests for technical and programming support where opportunities arise and where gaps are most pressing. While demand consistently exceeds the Fund's capacity to respond, as was the case in 2009, an expanding resource base has helped UNIFEM to offer support to more countries. UNIFEM was able to respond to requests for programming and technical support in 98 countries, compared with 82 in 2008, in the four thematic areas comprising its development results framework. As shown in figure I, UNIFEM provided support to 81 countries to advance gender equality in the context of governance, peace and security; to 80 countries for women's economic security and rights; to 25 countries on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS; and in the area of greatest increase — support to ending violence against women — the number of countries receiving support increased to 79 in 2009 from 56 in 2008. Figure II shows a similar trend in UNIFEM support to countries in making progress towards the achievement of the eight outcomes that frame the UNIFEM strategic plan, as in 2008, with a notable acceleration of support to legal and policy reform for gender equality.

Figure I
Number of programme countries for which UNIFEM was able to respond to support requests in 2008 and 2009, by theme

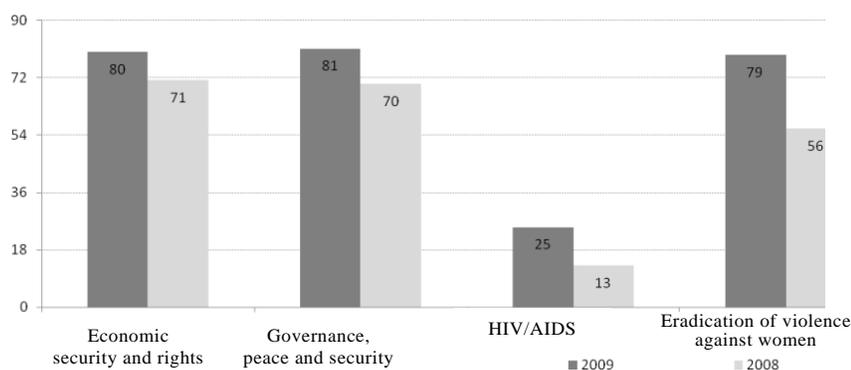
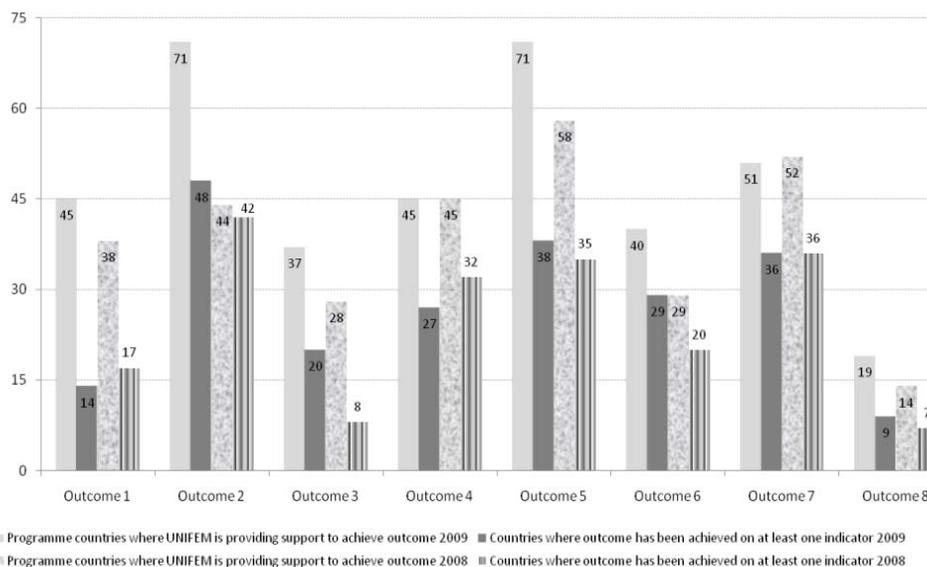


Figure II
Number of programme countries for which UNIFEM was able to respond to support requests in 2008 and 2009, by outcome



7. Figure III indicates that UNIFEM expenditure trends in 2009 were similar to those of 2008, with the capacity development of gender equality advocates, including national machineries for women and women's regional, national and local organizations and networks (outcomes 5 and 6) accounting for the largest share. This is consistent with the theory of change underpinning the strategic plan, according to which strengthening the effectiveness of these key interlocutors will generate positive change for gender equality at the legal and policy levels and better equip advocates to partner with Governments and other development actors to enhance their accountability for implementing commitments. The thematic distribution of expenditures (figure IV) is also similar to that of 2008. While expenditures under the HIV theme remained low, it is worth noting that this theme saw the largest percentage increase.

Figure III
Provisional programme expenditure distribution by outcome in 2008 and 2009
 (Millions of United States dollars)

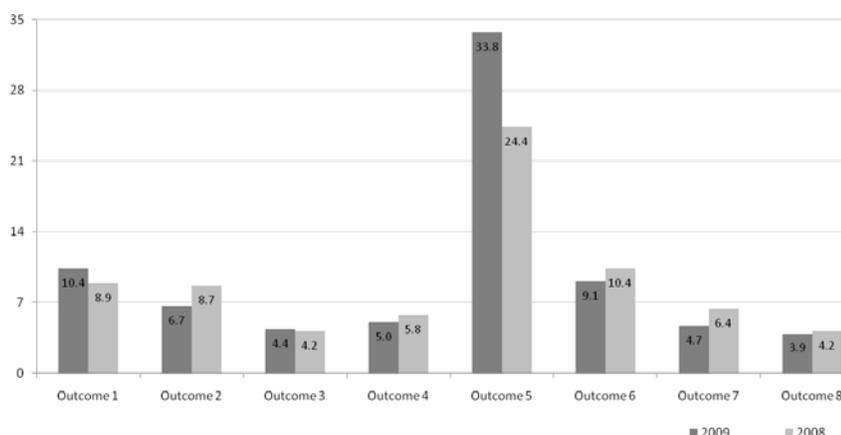
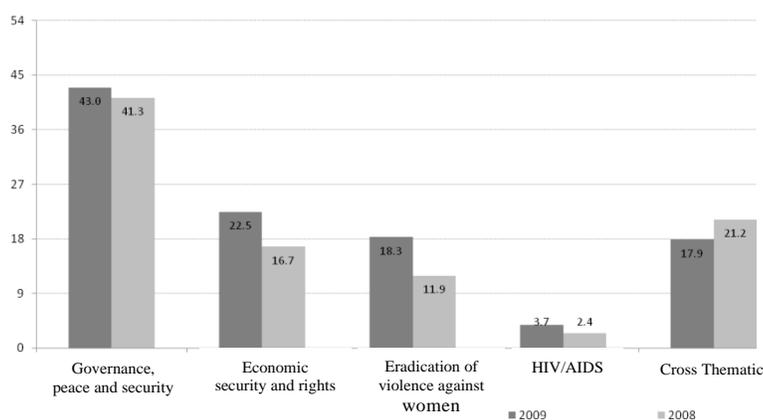


Figure IV
Provisional 2008 and 2009 programme expenditure distribution, by theme
 (Millions)



8. UNIFEM works with numerous partners, including Governments, United Nations organizations, women's networks and civil society. Figures V and VI illustrate the range of partners with whom UNIFEM works to contribute to results outlined in the strategic plan. The majority of partners (figure V) are in Government and include institutions, ministries, local governments, the security sector, parliaments, national commissions and national women's machineries. Within the United Nations system (figure VI), UNIFEM partners most frequently with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which combined account for approximately 50 per cent of the total number of United Nations partnerships as reflected in the development and management results frameworks.

Figure V
All partners in 2009

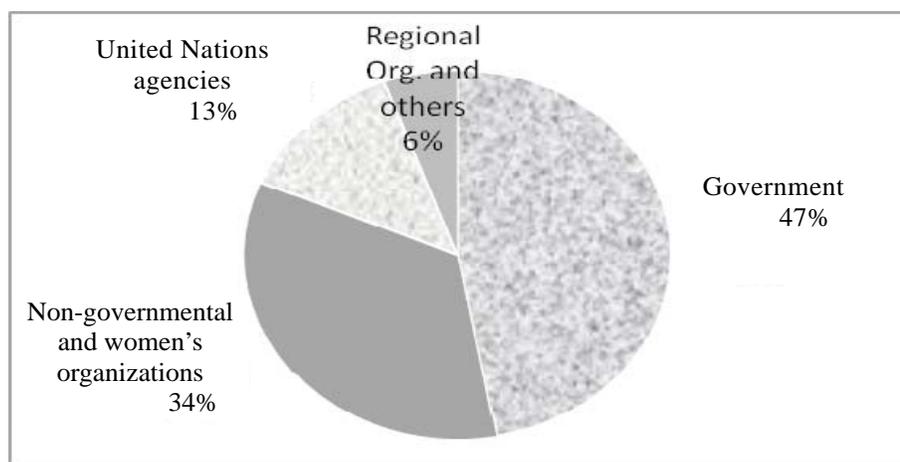
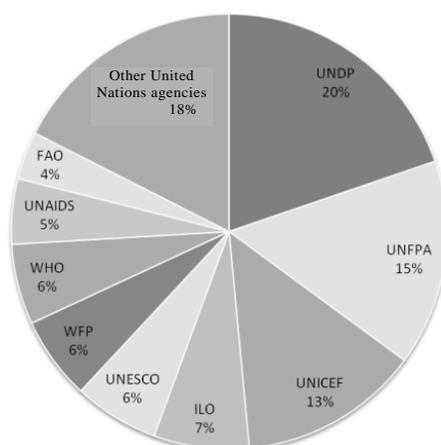


Figure VI
United Nations partners in 2009

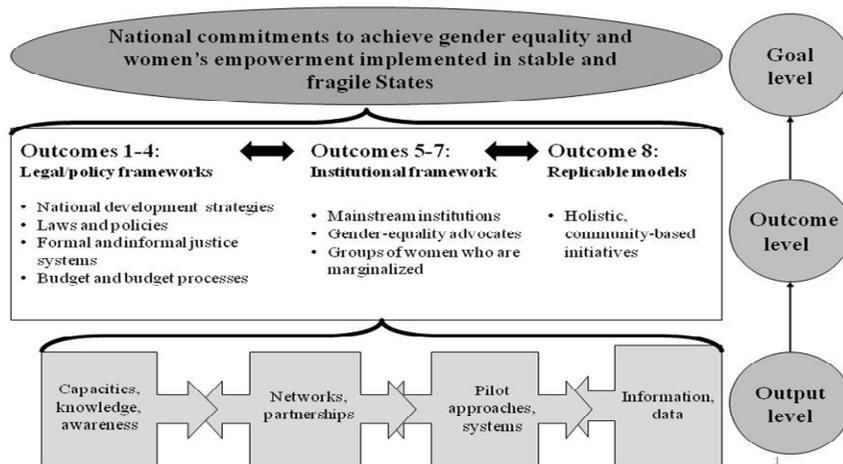


IV. Development results framework

9. The UNIFEM development results framework contains eight outcome-level results that together represent a comprehensive effort to support countries in advancing implementation of their commitments to gender equality. The framework is based on a holistic approach that requires support for simultaneous change at the macro, meso and microlevels. In this regard, UNIFEM supports partners to enhance the gender responsiveness needed from the national policy environment and mainstream institutions in order to deliver on commitments. It also supports gender equality advocates in building their capacity and knowledge for intensifying action and accountability. UNIFEM support for innovative pilot programmes generates

credible evidence of effective work at the microlevel to inspire replication and upscaling. Figure VII illustrates the development results logic that drives the work of UNIFEM (see DP/2007/45 for a description of outcomes).

Figure VII
Development results logic



10. The section that follows describes the progress made towards achieving results at three levels, according to the eight outcome-level results described above and within each of the four thematic areas. All results reported are country-owned results and the role of UNIFEM is to support partners in their efforts to make progress towards achieving them.

A. Enhancing women's economic security and rights

11. UNIFEM supports efforts to enhance women's economic security and rights through programmes that: (a) strengthen the gender equality dimensions of macroeconomic policies, including national development frameworks; (b) increase financing of gender equality commitments in strategies relating to poverty reduction and the Millennium Development Goals; and (c) enable women to enhance their rights in specific sectors of the formal and informal economy and to have equitable access to productive assets.

12. In this thematic area, UNIFEM worked with Government partners — including ministries of finance, planning and labour and national women's machineries — networks of economists, women's non-governmental organizations, excluded groups of women (migrant workers, home-based workers and rural women) and United Nations country teams. UNIFEM and its partners worked to: (a) incorporate national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment in 15 national or regional poverty-reduction or other economic frameworks; (b) support efforts towards the adoption of 20 laws or policies that advanced women's economic capacities and rights in 13 countries (compared with 15 in 2008); (c) support expansion of access to legal assistance for women to enhance their economic rights

in five countries (compared with seven in 2008); and (d) support to institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting in 27 countries (compared with 32 in 2008).

13. In cooperation with many United Nations partners — most often with UNDP — UNIFEM supported national partners to strengthen the gender equality commitments contained in two approved poverty reduction strategies in 2009 (compared with seven in 2008) and 12 newly adopted or revised national development strategies or other policy frameworks, including national plans and strategies relating to employment, donor coordination and environmental standards (compared with 12 in 2008), and one regional development strategy. UNIFEM supported gender equality advocates from both Government and civil society to engage in multi-stakeholder platforms, providing analyses relating to the impact of new aid modalities on women's empowerment and advocating for the inclusion of agreed national commitments, such as national plans of action on gender equality, where such plans existed.

14. For example, with European Union support for aid effectiveness, the Government of Cameroon formed a multi-stakeholder platform through a decree from the Ministry of Planning to oversee national development processes and the aid process. Gaps relating to gender equality within Vision 2035 and the Strategy Document for Growth and Employment were identified through the coordinated efforts of the Gender Equality Working Group, which used the national gender policy as a basis for the effective mainstreaming of gender equality in the national plans. Specific gender equality commitments included in the plans centre on boosting women's participation in decision-making processes, reducing maternal mortality, increasing women's economic potential and integrating a gender dimension into planning and budgetary processes at all levels.

15. In 2009, UNIFEM supported legal and policy reform, often in partnership with the International Labour Organization and ministries of labour, including through: continuing efforts across Asia to protect women's rights in the context of migration; securing women's rights to land in several countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as in Ecuador and Rwanda; introducing laws to address sexual harassment in the workplace in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nepal and Pakistan and in countries in West Africa; legislating equal employment opportunities in Kazakhstan and the Republic of Moldova; strengthening the legal framework in the Plurinational State of Bolivia to quantify household work so that it can be reflected in the national accounts and the gross national product; and introducing more effective policies to protect women in the informal economy in Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

16. Crucial in the context of the economic and financial crisis, UNIFEM supported stronger social protection legislation in Albania, Kyrgyzstan and throughout the Caribbean region. Working with the United Nations system in the context of the "Delivering as one" pilot, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Albania integrated gender equality concerns into the revised social assistance/economic aid law on the basis of the findings of a local beneficiary analysis conducted in two municipalities. The main revisions were focused on expanding the categories of female-headed households eligible for economic aid.

17. In 2009, UNIFEM continued its support, initially extended in 2001, to gender-responsive budgeting initiatives. Results included an increase in the number of budget processes that reflected efforts to incorporate gender equality. With UNIFEM

assistance, ministries of finance issued or reissued gender-responsive budgeting guidelines in 10 countries in 2009¹ (compared with 16 in 2008). In 2009, UNIFEM also supported the incorporation of gender-equality measures in sector and local budget processes in 23 countries (compared with 17 in 2008). Monitoring mechanisms to track progress of gender-responsive budgeting initiatives were initiated or strengthened by civil society and Government partners in 14 countries (compared with the same number in 2008).

18. Allocations for gender-responsive budgeting efforts in Nepal — based on data generated by an information system that tracks budget allocations for gender-responsive programmes — increased from 14 per cent in 2008/09 to 17 per cent in 2009/10. This information system was put in place by the Ministry of Finance following the recommendation of the Gender-Responsive Budgeting Committee. In Morocco, UNIFEM has supported gender-responsive budgeting since 2001 and continues, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, to deepen its support to sectoral ministries for capacity development and the provision of technical support. The gender report accompanying the country's 2010 finance law included 25 line-ministry departments, up from 21 in 2008 and an initial four in 2006.

19. Supporting the sustainable capacities of gender-equality experts and mainstream institutions to advocate for, monitor and/or implement gender equality commitments on women's economic security and rights is critical to progress in this area. In 2009, UNIFEM supported women's governmental and non-governmental organizations in 23 countries (compared with 26 in 2008) by helping them to participate in decision-making forums relevant to the economic policies affecting women's lives and by encouraging dialogues with decision makers to strengthen monitoring and accountability. UNIFEM also provided support to networks of economically excluded women — including women living in rural areas, indigenous women, HIV-positive women, migrant women and home-based women workers — in 20 countries (compared with 13 in 2008) to help them develop a common agenda. Moreover, UNIFEM capacity development efforts contributed to enhancing the performance of key ministries in 15 countries, including those of labour, finance, education, justice, trade and agriculture, as well as regional organizations and statistics bureaux to promote implementation of laws and policies relating to women's access to decent work, productive resources and social protection.

20. UNIFEM works with policy, service-delivery and media institutions to create enabling environments that promote and protect women's economic security and rights. Through initiatives with ministries of labour, UNIFEM supported efforts to enhance social protection for working women in Cambodia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Panama, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia. In Cambodia, the standardized contract for overseas Cambodian migrant workers was developed, finalized and readied for approval by the Ministry of Labour.

21. UNIFEM partners with mainstream development actors to identify promising pilot initiatives that can demonstrate innovative approaches to enhancing women's economic security and market opportunities, and invests increasingly in rigorous evaluations to generate learning that supports upscaling or replication by national,

¹ Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

regional or international partners. In 2006, UNIFEM began a four-year partnership with the World Bank and the International Centre for Research on Women in a pilot programme of results-based initiatives for women's economic empowerment in six countries that incorporate impact evaluation (40 per cent of the budget) as part of programme design. In Egypt, the Government adopted a corporate seal of approval, embraced by 10 private-sector companies, along with an assessment methodology for human resources departments to determine levels of gender equality in the workplace. The country's Ministry of Investment established the Gender Equity Certification Unit to ensure replication and upscaling of such initiatives at the national level.

B. Ending violence against women

22. Ending impunity, encouraging greater investment in prevention and expanding partnerships with men, boys and faith-based organizations are key priorities in UNIFEM support to countries to end violence against women. The Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" (UNiTE Campaign) and successive General Assembly resolutions have stimulated increased action on ending violence against women at the country level and throughout the United Nations system. On behalf of the United Nations system, UNIFEM administers the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, as designated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/166.

23. UNIFEM work in this thematic area is in line with the goals of the UNiTE Campaign, which aims to achieve the following five outcomes in all countries by 2015: (a) adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls; (b) adopt and implement multisectoral national action plans; (c) strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls; (d) increase public awareness and social mobilization; and (e) address sexual violence in conflict.

24. With an increasing number of countries adopting national laws, policies and strategies to end violence against women, it is critical that these agreements be reflected in mainstream national strategies and budgets. In 2009, UNIFEM supported partners to successfully advocate for the inclusion of commitments to end violence against women in national development strategies in three countries (compared with five in 2008); contributed to efforts to secure approval of 16 laws (compared with eight in 2008) and five policies (compared with seven in 2008) relating to multiple forms of violence against women; and supported efforts to end impunity for violations of women's rights, which resulted in justice system reforms in six countries² (compared with four in 2008).

25. In 2009, UNIFEM support to its partners resulted in the approval of laws, including in Afghanistan, Colombia, Mexico and Rwanda. In Afghanistan, UNIFEM has worked with civil society activists, parliamentarians and the Parliamentary Women's Commission since 2007, and by July 2009, these efforts had resulted in the reform and the signing of the Ending Violence against Women law, which marks the first time in the country's history that rape and violence against women have been criminalized. As part of an overall United Nations effort to strengthen the rule

² Argentina, China, India, Guinea, Nepal and Sierra Leone.

of law in the context of the One United Nations Initiative, 2008-2011, UNIFEM support in Rwanda has enabled survivors of sexual or other forms of violence to claim for damages.

26. UNIFEM partnered with Governments to support the development of the capacities of decision makers in formal and informal justice systems in efforts to end violence against women, including by ensuring that women survivors of violence could access legal assistance under 15 country/territory programmes³ (compared with 11 in 2008), through support to capacity development for paralegals, the development of guidelines, awareness-raising on access to services at the community level; and capacity development of men and women judges in 10 countries.

27. A sampling of results achieved in 2009 included the following: in Nepal, in-camera hearings guidelines were finalized and adopted by the National Judicial Academy; and in Hunan Province, China, the first-ever landmark judicial guidelines on domestic violence cases were adopted. In Argentina, the Supreme Court of Justice established the Office for Domestic Violence and the Women's Office — the first entities of their kind at the national level. In addition, courts in all 20 provinces of Argentina have signed agreements to replicate the Office for Domestic Violence at the provincial level. UNIFEM, UNDP and UNICEF supported this effort, including by sponsoring exchange visits between the Supreme Court and the provincial courts.

28. UNIFEM works to support capacity-building for gender equality advocates in the areas of advocacy, policy influence and political space in order to bring an end to violence against women. In 2009, UNIFEM supported efforts in seven countries⁴ to strengthen capabilities for tracking the implementation of commitments; national women's machineries in nine countries to lead cross-sectoral efforts to improve policies and services delivery; and additional efforts to localize funding sources. UNIFEM worked with police, national statistics bureaux and a range of Government ministries — including health and education ministries and ombudsperson offices — to track the prevalence of gender-based violence and increase the availability of services for survivors in 31 countries (compared with 11 in 2008).

29. In 2009, UNIFEM supported women's networks to monitor commitments to end violence against women through prevalence and opinion surveys and/or through the creation of databases and observatories in Algeria, Mexico and Morocco. The Ministry of Women's Affairs of Cambodia, one of the few countries to establish a national Millennium Development Goals target on ending violence against women, commissioned a follow-up to a baseline survey conducted in 2005 to collect information and monitor changes in attitudes and behaviours as a result of the Government's performance in implementing anti-violence measures, and made a number of key policy recommendations.

30. UNIFEM joined other entities in the United Nations system in initiatives to engage men and boys in efforts to end violence against women. These activities involve support to men's networks focused on these issues, and to work in areas that

³ Afghanistan, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Haiti, India, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

⁴ Afghanistan, Algeria, Cambodia, Ecuador, India, Mexico and Morocco.

traditionally have been predominately male, such as the leadership of faith-based groups, the judiciary and the security sector. Notably, UNIFEM is expanding its partnerships with networks of men and boys at global, regional and national levels, including with Promundo and the MenEngage Alliance.

31. UNIFEM has increased its efforts to build the capacities of police to respond to violence against women, track cases and/or link with other services, such as medical and legal assistance, in 16 countries and territories and one region.⁵ Particularly noteworthy is the recognized leadership of the Rwanda National Police and the Rwandan Defence Forces, both of which are regularly consulted throughout Africa for technical assistance and training programmes for police and the military on effective strategies to end violence against women, with strong support from UNDP.

32. At the community level in 2009, progress was made in furthering the development of the global programme Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls 2008-2014, which includes a strong impact-evaluation component intended to develop a proven model for upscaling by municipalities. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to formalize inter-agency collaboration. In addition, a critical partnership of lead expert organizations was formed, which includes Women in Cities International, Red Mujer y Habitat de América Latina and the International Centre for Research on Women.

C. Halting the spread of HIV and AIDS among women and girls

33. At the global level, 2009 saw a renewed focus on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS in the development of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Action Framework on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV/AIDS, supported by an operational plan with key accountability outlined for the United Nations system, under the leadership of UNAIDS, and endorsed by the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board. Although not a UNAIDS co-sponsor, UNIFEM participated in the development of the Action Framework; is a member of the Global Task Force on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV/AIDS; and co-chairs the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS.

34. To promote a coherent, gender-sensitive approach to halting the spread of HIV, UNIFEM works in collaboration with the United Nations system, national AIDS councils and civil society partners, giving priority to support for HIV-positive women's networks to advocate for increased attention to key gender and women's human rights concerns, addressing interlinkages between HIV and violence against women and mainstreaming gender into national AIDS plans.

35. National AIDS plans are central planning tools that guide work in various sectors and behind which donors align their support. In 2009, working with Governments, civil society and United Nations system partners, UNIFEM supported

⁵ Afghanistan, Argentina, Burundi, Haiti, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Kosovo (as defined by the Security Council in its resolution 1244 (1999)), and in eight Caribbean nations through the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police, an umbrella organization for 24 police agencies in the region.

the integration of gender equality into HIV strategies at the national level in three countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Rwanda (compared with one country in 2008).

36. The long history of UNIFEM support to HIV-positive women's groups was cited in the 2006 evaluation of UNIFEM; programming in this area was found to be a key strategy for increasing attention to the gender dimensions of the epidemic. In 2009, UNIFEM supported HIV-positive women's networks and groups to develop specific calls for Government action in 12 countries⁶ (compared with five countries in 2008) and supported the advocacy efforts of two regional networks and one global network).⁷ These groups have articulated a range of issues, including: an end to stigmatization, discrimination and violence; increased access to antiretroviral therapy; improved livelihoods options; and support for home-based care work.

37. In 2009, UNIFEM also supported partners to strengthen service delivery to women infected or affected by HIV through mainstream institutions in nine countries⁸ and throughout the Caribbean region. This work addressed the intersections of violence against women and HIV by, for example, supporting a protocol for the Ministry of Health in Ecuador and offering health, education and social service sector training in the Caribbean region. UNIFEM also supported efforts to expand service centres that address violence against women to include counselling and HIV testing in Rwanda and Nigeria.

38. In 2009, UNIFEM deepened its support to the national AIDS control programme in Cambodia, where it has supported the placement of gender advisers, and in Nigeria, where a gender manager supports national policy development and implementation. The latter case became a model for a programme financed by the European Commission, on the basis of which UNIFEM plans to support similar work in five countries.

39. Since 2006, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women has provided support to a learning cohort of seven grantees that generate knowledge on how to address the intersections between violence against women and HIV in order to develop effective approaches for replication and upscaling. In 2009, in partnership with PATH (Program for Appropriate Technology in Health), it continued to provide that group of grantees with technical assistance for the development and implementation of rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems.

40. With the support of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, State hospitals in Nigeria have established police-doctor and post-exposure prophylaxis coordinators through multisectoral anti-violence committees, which operate as referral systems and extend to six communities across two States to address the intersection between HIV/AIDS and violence against women. The committees identify and address related cases and institutionalize protocols across health, law enforcement and legal sectors. Capacity

⁶ Ecuador, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Mexico, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Somalia, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

⁷ Regional networks in Asia and the Pacific and in the Caribbean; and the Global Caregivers Alliance.

⁸ Cambodia, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia and Nigeria.

development activities have succeeded in engaging men and boys, in particular traditional rulers, who are active in the committees and committed to their sustainability.

D. Advancing gender justice in democratic governance

41. One of the pillars of UNIFEM work to advance democratic governance is to support the development of participatory, responsive, equitable and inclusive decision-making processes, including in post-conflict settings.

42. In 2009, UNIFEM worked in partnership with national women's machineries, women's community-based non-governmental organizations, gender-equality advocates, United Nations country teams and many Government partners to secure the incorporation of commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment into humanitarian relief strategies in three countries and support the passage of 33 laws or policies strengthening women's participation in democratic governance (compared with 27 in 2008). UNIFEM supported: (a) eight countries in developing national action plans pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), with four finalized; (b) five countries in introducing stronger gender equality provisions in their constitutions, with one ratified; (c) 11 countries⁹ in the formulation of national plans and policies on gender equality; and (d) a regional gender policy for the African Union and for Aceh Province in Indonesia.

43. In many cases, more targeted reporting by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has enabled UNIFEM Consultative Committee members to provide stronger recommendations that have in turn influenced policies at the national level. A positive trend in 2009 saw the development of action plans to accompany gender policies in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Mali, and examples of budgeted plans in the Republic of Moldova and Serbia.

44. At the global, regional and national levels, UNIFEM is supporting Member States and national partners to advance the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). As host of the secretariat of the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative, UNIFEM played an important role in its work with partners to support evidence-based advocacy in the lead-up to the adoption of resolutions 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). The value of this contribution was noted in an independent assessment undertaken by the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

45. Leading up to the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in 2010, UNIFEM continued its participation in a series of inter-agency efforts that in 2008 began to support partners in adopting national action plans pursuant to that resolution in Liberia, Nepal, Rwanda and Uganda. In Liberia, leadership at the highest levels ensured increased budgetary allocations across multiple sectors to implement the action plan, and the Liberia National Police and the Ministry of Justice mobilized funds to set up a sexual crimes unit. Together with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and

⁹ Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Niger, the Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, UNIFEM is leading an initiative to build on national efforts to develop global indicators on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), as mandated in resolution 1889 (2009).

46. The driving force behind all UNIFEM actions to advance gender equality is its partnerships with women's networks, both governmental and non-governmental. In 2009, UNIFEM supported initiatives to develop the capacity of gender-equality advocates to press for, monitor and support the implementation of national commitments to gender equality in 71 countries (compared with 58 in 2008). This included support to national women's machineries, key political parties to promote women's rights in eight countries¹⁰ (compared with six in 2008), and women to develop common agendas for peace and reconciliation in eight countries.

47. In 2009, UNIFEM provided support in the areas of organizational development, training, research and planning to enable national women's machineries to lead, facilitate, monitor and support gender mainstreaming throughout Government ministries. UNIFEM also supports such machineries by developing their capacities to work effectively with other Government ministries, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to develop and implement national policies on women.

48. UNIFEM support to national women's machineries in the Andean region contributed to the creation of the Andean Council of Senior Advisers on Women and Equal Opportunities by the Andean Community. This Council, comprised of high-level representatives, such as ministers, secretaries of State or other equivalent Government representatives, works to promote equal opportunities between women and men, eliminate violence against women and build a more just and equitable new regional society.

49. Supporting coalitions of women that work together across lines of conflict to call for attention to women's human rights remains one of the most effective paths to strengthening gender equality in peacebuilding and post-conflict resolution. UNIFEM has 15 years of experience in supporting the efforts of these coalitions to attain their rightful place at negotiating tables. In 2009, UNIFEM was most deeply engaged with: coalitions of women in Afghanistan and of Afghan and Pakistani women; the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Peace; women's coalitions in the Sudan and Uganda; and women's groups in the Balkans and Georgia.

50. As part of its ongoing efforts to ensure that women's voices influence decision-making, UNIFEM worked with the Institute for Inclusive Security to bring Afghan gender equality advocates to the International Conference on Afghanistan. The delegation highlighted priorities that were included in the final communiqué of the Conference, including a commitment to fully implement the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan and the recently signed Law on Elimination of Violence against Women.

51. At the community level and with support from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, UNIFEM is implementing a programme on women's participation in peacebuilding in six post-conflict

¹⁰ Antigua and Barbuda, China, Indonesia, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Rwanda and Uruguay.

countries¹¹ that is generating replicable approaches. In Liberia, community-based “peace huts” help to develop the capacity of community groups in institutional and business management and adult literacy. The project is being replicated within two United Nations joint programmes and discussions are under way to bring the model to the national level through the Ministry of the Interior.

E. Gaps and challenges: development results framework

52. Gaps and challenges related to support for countries in advancing their national priorities under the UNIFEM thematic areas include: linking the capacity-building of political aspirants to actual changes in the percentage of women elected, and further translating these gains into improved public-service delivery for women through increased accountability; increasing work with political parties to make the issue of violence against women candidates and leaders more visible and to strengthen partnerships with other actors that are supporting efforts to confront this challenge; and strengthening programmatic and policy responses to bring attention to and take action on the gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS.

53. Additionally, while significant improvements have been made and efficiencies gained in the results-based reporting emanating from the computerized tracking system launched in 2009, additional support and internal capacity development are required to continuously improve the relevance and validation of reporting, including to demonstrate contributions to country-level results.

V. Management results framework

54. The management results framework tracks UNIFEM performance across four result areas: policy advice and catalytic programming; United Nations coordination and reform; accountability, risk and oversight; and administrative, human and financial capacities. Unlike the development results framework — which contains both outcome- and output-level results — the management results framework, for which UNIFEM is wholly responsible, contains 17 outputs and 58 indicators, against which UNIFEM tracks progress and gaps.

55. UNIFEM efforts in this area are guided by General Assembly resolutions 62/208 and 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system, in which the General Assembly called upon the United Nations development system to avail itself of UNIFEM technical experience on gender issues and encouraged UNIFEM to strengthen its efforts to provide strategic guidance to the United Nations system on gender equality.

A. Policy advice and catalytic programming (Area 1)

56. This result tracks the extent to which UNIFEM develops systems to ensure that it learns from, improves and documents how its provision of advocacy, technical support and catalytic programming advance gender equality and women’s empowerment.

¹¹ Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Uganda.

57. An essential element is the establishment of state-of-the-art evaluation practices that align with United Nations Evaluation Group standards. UNIFEM is making good progress in this area; it has finalized its evaluation policy and is implementing gender-responsive evaluation training modules with its staff and partners.

58. As part of an effort to continuously improve evaluation practice, in 2008, the UNIFEM Evaluation Unit conducted an internal review to establish a baseline. A 2009 assessment identified a 10 per cent improvement in evaluation quality in comparison with 2008. The Evaluation Resource Centre will be fully functional in 2010 and will publicly post all evaluations and management responses to evaluations. A total of 11 management responses were produced in 2009.

59. UNIFEM produces guidance for the United Nations and other partners to strengthen knowledge and practice to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2009, highlights included guidance notes for mediators in five key areas of peace negotiations that contributed to discussions relevant to Security Council resolutions 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009); guidance on integrating gender-responsive budgeting in the aid effectiveness agenda; the launch of a virtual knowledge centre on ending violence against women; and an accountability checklist for national AIDS planning.

60. Nine efforts to replicate or upscale UNIFEM-supported initiatives were tracked in 2009 (compared with eight in 2008). They included the replication of the Rwanda National Police and the Rwandan Defence Forces training curricula to fight violence against women and/or gender desks in eight instances;¹² and the upscaling of community-based training for a women migrant workers initiative in 40 villages by the Government of Indonesia, supported by the Australian Agency for International Development, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

B. United Nations coordination and reform (Area 2)

61. In 2009, UNIFEM expanded participation in United Nations coordination and reform processes at all levels and was engaged in 95 joint programmes (compared with 72 in 2008 — see figure VIII) and participated in eight “Delivering as one” pilots. UNIFEM participates in or leads gender theme groups in 69 countries, as well as 75 other coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and country levels (figure IX). UNIFEM continued to contribute to promoting stronger attention to gender equality, participating in 13 common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks in 2009. Also in 2009, seven United Nations country teams called on UNIFEM to conduct gender audits.

¹² Burundi, Fiji, Kenya, Nigeria, south Darfur, south Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

Figure VIII
UNIFEM participation in joint programmes

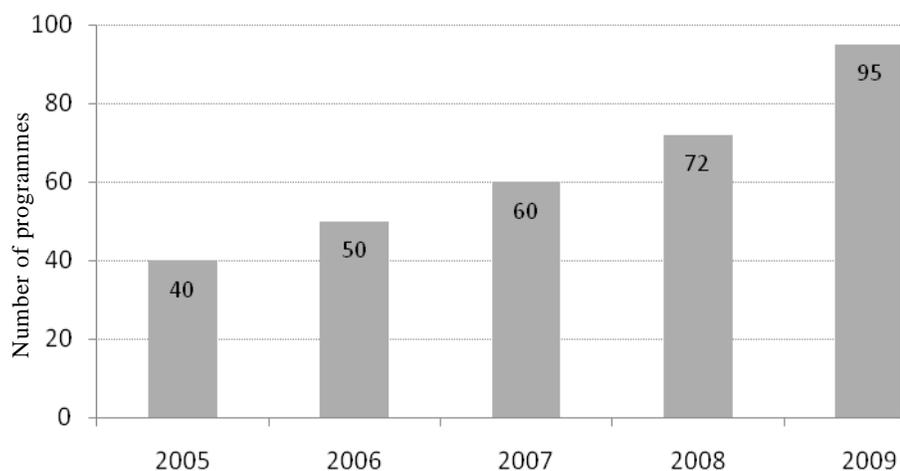
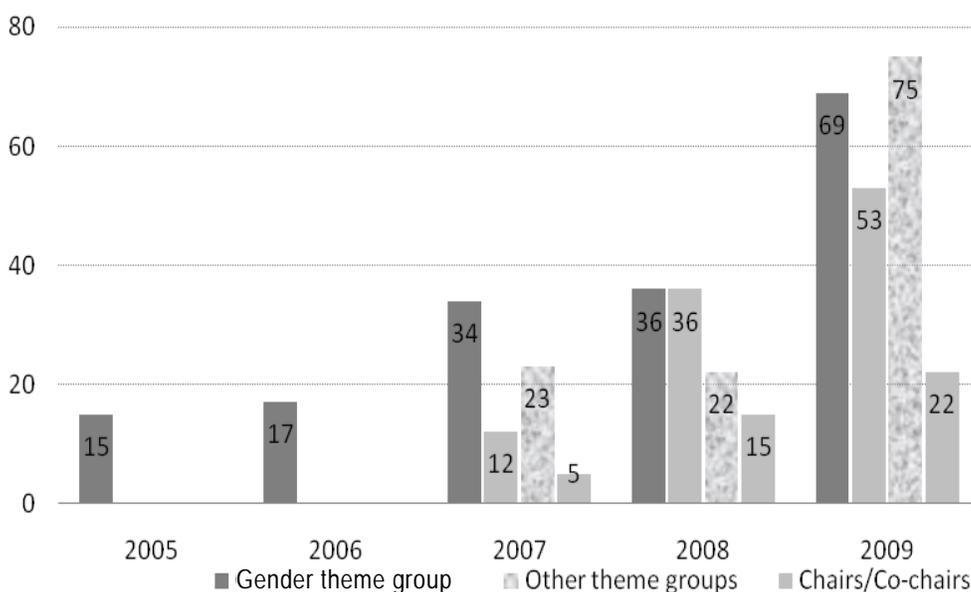


Figure IX
Yearly trend: number of gender coordination mechanisms led or co-led by UNIFEM, 2005-2009



62. UNIFEM prioritized support to United Nations system-wide efforts by actively participating in three task forces convened by the Deputy Secretary-General (gender architecture, the UNiTE Campaign and the rule of law); continued stewardship of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women; hosting the secretariat of the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative; and co-chairing the working group on programming issues for the United Nations Development Group.

63. The 17-member United Nations Development Group Task Team on Gender Equality, which UNIFEM chaired for three years, produced an agreed set of

performance indicators on gender equality for United Nations country teams, which was distributed to United Nations country teams in 2008. In 2009, the Task Team tracked their implementation in eight countries, while 40 other countries are in different stages of implementation planning.

C. Accountability, risk and oversight (Area 3)

64. In 2009, UNIFEM addressed the management issues of accountability, risk and oversight by strengthening staff capacity to monitor and report on results and continuing the phased delegation of authority of operational and programmatic business processes from headquarters to subregional offices.

65. Efforts to improve results tracking and reporting systems focused on finalizing and fully implementing the electronic results tracking system for the strategic plan. The system enables UNIFEM to perform better results-based quantitative and qualitative analyses, comparative across years, with results being linked to budgets and expenditures and verified by supporting documentation. UNIFEM also commissioned a review, the results of which will be available in 2010, of the quality of design and results orientation of its programme documents and the rigour of its programme appraisal processes.

66. UNIFEM also strengthened its policy, oversight and monitoring capacity, including through the delegation of authority. Seven offices have met the criteria for and been granted delegated authority. At the end of 2009, a total of 11 internal control frameworks from the field and headquarters units had been developed and approved. Reports based on enterprise resource planning system (Atlas) information are being systematically used throughout UNIFEM as risk management tools. A total of 12 internal audits were conducted between 2006 and 2009, which means that approximately 70 per cent of the subregional offices were audited at least once during the most recent three-year period.

D. Administrative, human and financial capacities (Area 4)

67. This output area tracks the extent to which UNIFEM has the administrative, human and financial capacities to respond to requests for technical expertise and financial support. Wave II of the Atlas enterprise resource planning system used by UNIFEM and other United Nations funds and programmes has been in place since January 2009 and is running satisfactorily.

E. Gaps and challenges: management results framework

68. While the UNIFEM management results framework recorded significant output results in 2009, reporting and reviews suggest that systems and knowledge should be enhanced to improve performance in a number of areas.

69. UNIFEM is working with the United Nations Development Group to develop a standard operational format and guidance for reporting progress on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. UNIFEM will also revise its reporting guidelines to ensure consistency with the standard operational format and more

systematically assess its contributions to United Nations country team commitments.

70. In 2010, UNIFEM will continue to invest in strengthening technical platforms and staff capacities for knowledge management to enable greater access to distilled knowledge assets for internal and external consumption.

VI. Integrated resources framework

71. The number of countries contributing to UNIFEM regular and other resources increased from 80 in 2008 to 102 in 2009. The number of multi-year pledges more than doubled over the year, from 11 to 24. Contributions for 2009 increased by 14 per cent to \$138 million, compared with \$121 million in 2008. Core contributions increased to \$62 million, an increase of 21 per cent over the 2008 total of \$51 million; while non-core contributions (excluding special trust funds managed by UNIFEM) increased by \$6 million, or 8 per cent, to reach \$76 million. An additional \$3.6 million was received for the Fund for Gender Equality in 2009, over the initial \$65 million granted by the Government of Spain in 2008. Contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women increased by \$5 million, or 27 per cent, to reach \$23 million in 2009.

72. UNIFEM reached delivery of 85 per cent of regular (core) resources and 75 per cent of non-core resources by the fourth quarter of 2009. It is worth noting that UNIFEM received more than half of its non-core resources, equivalent to \$45 million out of \$76 million, in the fourth quarter of the year, which had an impact on programming and the delivery rate for 2009. For the first time, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women disbursed grants to United Nations country teams, in addition to Governments and non-governmental organizations. The Fund for Gender Equality made its first grant of \$9.99 million in 2009. UNIFEM tracked trends in changes of the ratio of the biennial support budget to resources used and noted a decrease of 0.5 per cent from 2008.

VII. Recommendations

73. The UNIFEM Consultative Committee, which comprises five Member States (Egypt, Chile, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Korea and Sweden) appointed by the President of the General Assembly, held its fiftieth session on 24 and 25 March 2010.

74. The Consultative Committee expressed great appreciation to the Executive Director and the staff of UNIFEM for their work in the past year and made the following recommendations, designed to enhance the Fund's effectiveness.

The UNIFEM Consultative Committee:

1. Emphasizes that UNIFEM is an essential component of the United Nations gender architecture, recommends that UNIFEM continue to be actively involved in the processes leading to a stronger and more coherent United Nations architecture for gender equality and empowerment of women, and in this respect welcomes General Assembly resolution 63/311 which, inter

alia, calls for the establishment of a composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

2. Welcomes the important work of UNIFEM on the ground and recommends UNIFEM to ensure that its technical and financial support, catalytic programming and strategic partnerships effectively respond to the growing demands of Member States, civil society and United Nations organizations until a new composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women is established;

3. Recognizes the improvement in UNIFEM results-based management, encourages its further strengthening, and requests that UNIFEM continue to report to it annually on the strategic plan, emphasizing the links between the inputs, outputs and outcomes and lessons learned, and tracking progress against the baseline according to the key results and indicators;

4. Encourages UNIFEM to analyse the factors that lead to successful replication and upscaling of programme interventions;

5. Further encourages UNIFEM to continue its active participation in the voluntary efforts of the “Delivering as one” pilots and looks forward to the independent evaluation of the “Delivering as one” pilots to be presented to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly;

6. Commends UNIFEM on its leadership of the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Gender Equality, welcomes its work as Chair of the United Nations Development Group working group on policy issues and encourages UNIFEM to continue to contribute to the strengthening of the United Nations country team coordinated support to countries to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment;

7. Reiterates that UNIFEM should be invited to participate in key high-level inter-agency coordination mechanisms;

8. Encourages UNIFEM to continue to strengthen its partnership with the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and to further explore the possibility of co-sponsorship of UNIFEM in UNAIDS;

9. Further encourages UNIFEM to actively participate in the 2010 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, including, as appropriate, in its preparations, and in the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, to be held from 20 to 22 September 2010, including in its preparatory process, as outlined in resolution 64/184;

10. Continues to stress the importance of UNIFEM’s input into the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and encourages UNIFEM to actively participate in the follow-up to the outcomes of the Commission, as appropriate;

11. Encourages UNIFEM to continue its work in supporting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and to actively participate in the commemoration of its tenth anniversary;

12. Further encourages UNIFEM to continue to strengthen its work in support of gender-responsive budgeting;

13. Welcomes the final evaluation report on UNIFEM's partnerships with regional organizations and, in reaction to its findings, encourages the Fund to develop a strategy, including corporate tools for internal guidance, to frame its partnerships with relevant regional organizations;

14. Encourages UNIFEM to pay greater attention to the importance of engaging men and boys in its operations to strengthen gender equality and empower women;

15. Welcomes the continuing work of the UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassadors and takes note with appreciation of the positive impact of their activities;

16. Commends UNIFEM's ongoing advocacy campaign "Say No to Violence against Women" in support of the Secretary-General's multi-year campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and its participation in other inter-agency coordination efforts to end violence against women;

17. Welcomes the launch of the Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls and encourages UNIFEM to further develop that online platform and explore the possibility of broadening its scope to other thematic areas;

18. Commends UNIFEM for having surpassed the projections identified for resource mobilization in 2009 and the expansion of its partnerships with bilateral donors, civil society and private sector partners, encourages the Fund to continue to broaden its resource base and to seek stronger partnerships in order to meet the resource mobilization targets in its strategic plan, 2008-2013 and stresses the importance of securing predictable voluntary contributions;

19. Requests UNIFEM to respond to requests for support in a manner that strikes an appropriate balance among, and is consistent with, the four thematic areas of the strategic plan;

20. Notes with appreciation the operationalization of the Fund for Gender Equality, looks forward to receive a briefing on its work at the Committee's next annual session and recommends that UNIFEM ensure that the Executive Board is informed of the work of the Fund for Gender Equality;

21. Acknowledges the work of UNIFEM as manager of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, welcomes the evaluation of the Trust Fund and requests UNIFEM to continue to contribute to the implementation of the present recommendations;

22. Emphasizes the importance of reaching the target of annual disbursements of \$100 million by 2015 for the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, as set out in the Framework for Action of the Secretary-General's multi-year campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and encourages UNIFEM and partner organizations to further intensify their resource mobilization efforts;

23. Decides to convene intersessional meetings in 2010 as needed.