



5 August 2008

Dear colleagues,

Please find attached herewith the **Performance Indicators for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** approved unanimously by the UNDG at its meeting on 24 April 2008. The UNDG Principals had endorsed the development of these indicators in July 2006, and I am pleased that the task has now been completed. I take this opportunity to thank the UNDG Task Team on Gender Equality for supervising the finalization of these tools, including obtaining feedback from selected UN Country Teams.

These Performance Indicators, along with the Users' Guide, should serve as a valuable tool to help UN Country Teams understand the standard practices in which they should be engaging to support national priorities for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, a goal that is central to achieving the MDGs. They can be used for UN Country Team's self-assessment and for identifying gaps and corrective actions. Many UN agencies have their own assessment tools and this does not supersede those, but should rather be used alongside them. This tool, in fact, was created by taking what was most common and relevant across all individual agencies' tools.

The indicators are for use by all UNCTs. In particular, we are asking UN Country Teams that are developing **UNDAFs for 2008 and 2009 to establish a baseline using the performance indicators**, so that they can measure changes over the period of the next UNDAF. The UNDG will monitor their use and make adaptations as needed, based on feedback from the UNCTs. Eventually, every UNCT should be using these indicators systematically as an internal accountability mechanism, and to identify where progress is made or additional support is needed.

Should you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact S.K. Guha (s.k.guha@unifem.org) or Sandra Pellegrum (sandra.pellegrom@undg.org).

Yours sincerely,

Kemal Derviş
Chair

To: Heads of Agencies, Resident Coordinators, UNCT members
cc: Coordination Officers