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**Commission on the Status of Women
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INTERACTIVE EXPERT PANEL

“Capacity-building for mainstreaming a gender perspective

In India, UNFPA provided technical and advocacy support to the Governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat in undertaking gender-responsive budgeting. The process has been institutionalized through formation of state-level committees, establishment of sectoral focal points and involvement of other departments in the process. One state has already approved the Gender Equity Policy.

In Tanzania, UNFPA supports the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) in implementing a programme on gender budgeting that aims to support the government in engendering both the national and sector budgets, so as to ensure that the budgets are responsive to the needs of both women and men.

In Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), UNFPA, in collaboration with UNIFEM, UNDP, GTZ, the National Institute for Women (*Inamujer*) and the Women's Development Bank (*Banmujer*), have initiated gender-responsive budgeting that is demonstrating interesting results and making an impact at national, sectoral and municipal levels.

Support for National Development Frameworks

The UNFPA Strategic Plan 2008-2011 sets forth corporate priorities that are anchored to the principles of the Paris Declaration and the new aid environment. UNFPA recognizes that efforts to strengthen government capacity to engage in national development frameworks can

has assisted in engendering the Growth and PRS 2006-2009, that squarely addresses gender-based vulnerability in HIV/STI transmission; gender-based violence; the enforcement of existing laws that protect women's rights and the introduction of new legislation to redress inequalities; the introduction of gender budgeting and statistics on the care economy; and the mainstreaming of gender, population, family life education and health concepts in school curricula.

In India, UNFPA has strongly supported the positioning of gender in the health SWAp, beginning in 2004 with a detailed study on gender mainstreaming for the second phase of the National Reproductive and Child Health Programme. In the subsequent launch of the government's National Rural Health Mission, UNFPA has been approached to assist in piloting innovative approaches to address reproductive health and gender equality through community involvement.

In Nicaragua, in the context of new aid modalities, UNFPA and the Governments of Finland and The Netherlands established the Joint Fund for Gender Equity and Sexual and Reproductive Rights. Later joined by other donors, the Joint Fund aims to support and strengthen civil society in promoting gender equity and reproductive rights as national priorities, while focusing on raising awareness on human rights among duty bearers and rights holders. Specific attention has been given to the relationship between productive and reproductive roles of women, microcredit, economic participation and fertility, from which successful poverty-reducing local level pilot projects have been conducted, increasing women's options vis-à-vis their productive and reproductive roles.

In Syria, UNFPA was the lead agency that supported the integration of gender issues, including gender-based violence, in the 10th five-year national development plan.

In Tanzania, UNFPA was the first contributor to the health sector basket fund, providing support to the government and other donors on the use of sex-disaggregated data and maintains an active

maternal health care, strengthen mechanisms to reduce health inequities and empower women to exercise their right to maternal health care. The Thematic Fund will focus on supporting 75

the Campaign's remarkable progress with relatively modest funding, the needs are great as ending fistula worldwide will demand political will, additional resources, and strengthened collaboration and capacity level of governments, community groups, NGOs and health professionals.

UNFPA and UNICEF Trust Fund to Eliminate Female Genital Mutilation

UNFPA will also work towards strengthening the gender equality perspective in UNFPA-supported SWAp efforts, by expanding gender-specific components in guidance notes, knowledge sharing assets and training workshops, as well as in building the capacities of Ministries of Women's Affairs and women's groups in SWAp exercises. In addition to engagement in health sector SWAps, increased involvement in education and agricultural sector SWAps may be pursued as strategic entry points for gender discussion, especially in the context of rural poverty.

As one critical step towards realizing the organization's gender mainstreaming goals, a gender assessment at the Headquarters level was undertaken by an external evaluator to provide a baseline for implementation of the Strategic Framework, and regional assessments are also planned for 2008. In addition, ensure that a gender perspective is fully implemented across the organization's operations, as well as institutional culture requires additional investments in terms of human and financial resources. UNFPA will strengthen capacities among existing staff to secure a larger pool of staff with the relevant skills, including on gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming.

As part of its accountability to gender equality, UNFPA will aim to increase both core and extra-budgetary resources for this programming area. This can result from a combination of possibilities, including a shift in existing budget allocations, renewed mobilization efforts and the establishment of a 'challenge fund' or other creative mechanisms to harness additional monies for gender equality programming. To address the challenge of tracking resources that are allocated for gender equality and women's empowerment, UNFPA plans to improve its resource-gauging by making modifications to its reporting and finance tracking mechanisms.