

9 November 2021

Dear Ms. Haswell,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

I write to thank you and the United Nations Country Team in Maldives for your continuous support and commitment to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and to the implementation of the UNCT-System Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality Scorecard (UNCT-SWAP GE Scorecard). Specifically, I commend the Maldives UNCT for meeting or exceeding gender mainstreaming requirements for 6 out of 15 performance indicators.

To this end, please find attached our analysis of notable achievements by the Maldives UNCT and of key actions included in the Maldives UNCT Action Plan to strengthen performance (Annex 1).

In this context, I am pleased to share with you the [Secretary-General's report on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system \(E/2021/52\)](#), which presents an overview of system-wide accomplishments, challenges, and good practices; as well as the subsequent [resolution adopted by ECOSOC](#).

Importantly, UN Women takes this opportunity to recognize the dedicated efforts of the Interagency Assessment Team comprised of representatives from IOM, RCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC and WHO in preparing the UNCT-SWAP GE Scorecard report in Maldives. Their contributions were essential to ensuring the accuracy and relevance of the assessment and to preparing the Action Plan.

Finally, we invite the UNCT in Maldives to further implement the UNCT-SWAP through preparing and submitting an annual progress report. The online UNCT-SWAP reporting platform will be available for the next round of annual progress reporting in mid-November. The platform is accessible via <https://unswap.unwomen.org>. Guidance on reporting can be requested from genderscorecard.helpdesk@unwomen.org.

Ms. Catherine Haswell
United Nations Resident Coordinator
in the Republic of Maldives

Ms. Aparna Mehrotra, Director of our UN System Coordination Division, together with her team who lead the UNCT-SWAP Technical Secretariat at UN Women, and Mr. Mohammad Naciri, UN Women Regional Director, Asia and the Pacific, and Ms. Hulda Ouma, UN Women Regional Coordination and Planning Specialist, are available to provide support and guidance as needed to the Maldives UNCT.

Yours sincerely,



Sima Bahous

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director

Annex 1: Maldives UNCT-SWAP GE Scorecard Comprehensive Report - 2020

Notable achievements: With specific reference to the Maldives UNCT-SWAP GE Scorecard Report results for 2020, UN Women commends the Maldives UNCT for meeting minimum requirements for 4 performance indicators and exceeding requirements for 2 performance indicators. Notable achievements include:

- Gender Equality Mainstreamed in Cooperation Framework/UNDAF Outcomes – The UNDAF Outcome 2 specifically targets women’s social, economic and political empowerment, in line with SDG priorities, including SDG 5.
- UNCT Collaborates and Engages with Government on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women – Support from UNDP and UNFPA to the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to develop the CEDAW State Report, and the leadership of the Ministry in discussions that led to the inclusion of the gender equality outcome in the UNDAF.
- UNCT Leadership is Committed to Championing Gender Equality – The frequent inclusion of dedicated agenda items on gender equality in UNCT meetings with the Gender Outcome Group often providing updates at UNCT meetings. In addition, more than 82% of the Resident Coordinator’s talking points during the examined period referenced gender equality issues and the Resident Coordinator published an Op-Ed in local newspapers to mark International Women’s Day in 2020.
- Gender Coordination Mechanism is Empowered to Influence the UNCT for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women – Seven out of thirteen members of the Gender Outcome Group are above P4/NOC level, with the Group leading efforts to mainstream gender into partnerships and resource mobilization initiatives.

Key actions to strengthen gender mainstreaming performance: To build on the momentum of the achievements of the Maldives UNCT, and to ensure enhanced performance, UN Women encourages full implementation of the activities in the Maldives UNCT-SWAP GE Scorecard Action Plan, including the following key actions:

- Common Country Analysis Integrates Gender Analysis – Ensure gender analysis is included in all sectors of the Common Country Analysis with consistent use of gender sensitive, sex disaggregated data.
- Gender Equality Mainstreamed in Cooperation Framework Outcomes – Ensure that gender is mainstreamed into more outcomes in the new Cooperation Framework and that the Cooperation Framework has a gender targeted outcome, as relevant.
- Joint Programmes Contribute to Reducing Gender Inequalities – Ensure that future Joint Programmes visibly mainstream gender including gender sensitive outputs and indicators.

- UNCT has Adequate Capacities Developed for Gender Mainstreaming – Build gender equality technical competencies for UN staff through periodic interagency capacity development activities such as training, seminars and mentoring.