

GENDER NETWORK of the RBA

Minutes – 8 March 2019

Participants

- H.E. Amb. Dr. Greg French, Australia
- P.R Angelica Jacome, Panama
- H.E. Delphine Borione, France
- H.E Reenat Sandhu, India
- H.E Asmahan Altoqi, Yemen
- Rafael Osorio, Spain
- Mi Nguyen, Canada
- Haitham Abdelhady, Egypt
- Julia Vicioso, Dominican Republic
- Marie Guillet, France
- Virginie Knecht, Belgium, Belgium
- Nadine van Dijk, Netherlands
- Maria Esperanca, Angola
- Ingrid Stensby Bakken, Norway
- Gunnvor Berge, Norway
- Louise Seiler, France
- Giulia Parenti, EU
- Valentina Savastano, Italy
- Jeehan Alostad, Kuwait
- Sarafoglou Stavros, Greece
- Marios Georgiades, Cyprus
- Paul Kiernan, Ireland
- Luis Fernando de Carvalho, Brazil
- Shi Jiaoqun, China
- Gustaf Daud Sirait, Indonesia
- Ida Ayu Ratih, Indonesia
- Vibeke Mortensen, Denmark
- Chiara Sagrado, UK
- Amarilli villegascordero, Costa Rica
- Paula Peraza Aguilar, Costa Rica
- Hang Nguyen, USA
- Silvio Giovanazzi, USA
- Maris Gavino, Philippines
- Lupino Lazaro, Philippines
- Naomi Sterk, Netherlands

1. Welcome by co-chairs

- FAO and Spain presented the proposed work stream on gender for inclusion in the CFS MYPoW (Policy Guidance on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition) and asked for the support of the RBA gender network members.
- Australia opened the meeting; agenda was adopted.

2. Up-date on final list of focal points

- Australia introduced the point by recalling the informal status of the RBA gender network composed by two co-chairs and two focal points for each agency.
- Australia noted that the following focal points were in place at the last meeting:
 - Ambassador Delphine Borione (France) for WFP;
 - Mi Nguyen (Canada) for FAO;
 - Gustaf Daud Sirait (Indonesia) for FAO;
 - Rafael Osorio (Spain) for IFAD.
- New nominations were confirmed:
 - Haitham Abdelhady (Egypt) for WFP;

- Ambassador Reenat Sandhu (India) for IFAD;
- Julia Vicioso (Dominican Republic) for CFS.

3. Reflections on IWD

- Panama opened the discussion on reflections on the 2019 IDW event that had just taken place in WFP (best practices, things to be improved).
- UK noted that it was useful to hear not only from the RBA's perspective but also from external partners' point of view.
- Canada appreciated the presence of two principals of the RBA (and encouraged the participation of the three next year) and suggested the introduction of a component on concrete commitments on gender, including at the RBA level.
- France suggested that measurement of progress achieved and concrete steps forward were discussed.
- Norway emphasized the importance of commitment of the leadership all year long on this issue and supported the inclusion of a discussion on concrete steps to be taken.
- Yemen underlined the need to work on time constraints and suggested inviting panelists from countries in protracted crisis.
- Philippines supported the idea to diversify the panel and suggested inviting rural women farmers to share their experiences.
- Denmark supported the idea to diversify the panel and invite panelists from developing countries.
- Canada suggested having a network meeting with the RBA to look at the steps forward for next year and supported the idea to hear more from the field.
- Indonesia supported the idea to include successful experiences from the ground and suggested hearing from the 'gender champions' appointed in the RBA as well as from men.
- France supported the idea of hearing from the 'gender champions' and underlined the need to focus on the theme proposed by CSW each year.
- Australia thanked the speakers for the rich interventions that will be captured in the recommendations for the organization of 2020 IDW.
- Panama summarized the points raised (call to bring more substance to the event; have a discussion on progress and way forward; involve people from developing countries; call to focus the discussion; encourage the three principals to participate...).

4. Discussion of forward work plan

- Australia introduced the discussion and noted that the idea of a work plan arose during the last meeting throughout a discussion on how the network could contribute in concrete ways to helping the RBA progress regarding gender issues.
- Panama presented the draft work plan of the RBA gender network and welcomed comments from the network:
 - Canada suggested including an objective on the issue of sexual harassment and abuse.
 - Denmark suggested monitoring closer gender SWAP (last box of the work plan).
 - Spain suggested exploring the opportunity of an external action of the network, linking up with the other gender networks in New-York and Geneva.

- Norway noted that a number of evaluations on gender will be issued shortly in the three agencies and proposed that the network look through these reports with the help of volunteers that would provide a summary to the network.
 - Norway also raised the issue of the network speaking as one.
 - Denmark volunteered to send an email to the MOPAN Secretariat to ask them to address this specific issue.
 - Canada volunteered to look at the FAO gender evaluation.
 - US noted that WFP organized a gender workshop and suggested to do the same in the two other agencies.
 - Indonesia underlined that the main strength of the network is to be a catalyzer of the support for gender across all regional groups.
 - Canada underlined that it would be good to have members from different regional groups supporting the same point.
 - France supported the idea to give a voice to the gender network and suggested having a stronger focus in the work plan on the programmatic elements.
 - Norway suggested compiling rules and regulation in a place to handling gender issues (could include both human resources and programmatic practices) as another task for the network and volunteered to start this work.
- Panama indicated that the draft work plan will be updated before it is shared with the network.

5. Other business

N/A

6. Next meeting

- The co-chairs will indicate the date of the next meeting shortly.