## IASC GRG 2018 Annual Strategic Planning

February 2, 2018  
UN Women Headquarters

**Meeting Co-Chairs**

* **Caroline Rusten**, UN Women
* **Kate Hunt**, CARE International

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| **Participants** | | |
| **David Coffey** – UN Women | **Deborah Clifton** – GenCap (Observer) | **Stephen Harris** – IASC Secretariat |
| **Maria Novelo** – UN Women (note taker) | **Merrin Waterhouse** – GenCap (Observer) | **Greta Gamberini** – IASC Secretariat |
| **Julie Lafreniere** – Oxfam | **Veera Haapaniemi** – UN OCHA | **Kristin Valachek** – UNHCR (on-line) |
| **Catherine Harrington** – Women’s Refugee Commission | **Fabrizia Falcione** – UNFPA | **Leslie Archambeault** – Plan International |
| **Angela Wiens** – International Medical Corps | **Patty Alleman** – UNICEF (on-line) | **Nuhad Al-Alfi** – IASC Secretariat |
| **Elizabeth Eilor –** UN OCHA |  |  |

1. AGENDA ITEMS
   1. **Session 1 IASC reform & IAS and GRC** [IASC Secretariat]

Introductions

* Kate CARE will co-chair as Jina is on mission **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* GenCap is here to observe and to talk about GAM later **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* ASG Ursula Mueller – our champion has sent a video recording **Co-Chair [UNW]**

Video is reproduced

**ASG Ursula Mueller [IASC Secretariat] (Video)**

* This group has done a lot to propel gender
* The policy and the accountability framework is an example of what we can achieve together
* I appreciate UNW on their role as co-chair and spearheading these important efforts
* IASC is committed to ensuring that gender equality and women’s empowerment is at the core of humanitarian work
* I am glad to see the accountability commitments embedded in the tools we have now

IASC subsidiary report

* We haven’t received the report on the subsidiary bodies, we can assume that we are set to continue as we are unless we hear something else.After collaborating with the consultants, the only thing that has come in writing from the Secretariat are the consultants’ preliminary recommendations (zero draft – not endorsed) saying that the GRG was completing the Policy and Accountability Framework and they seemed to be under the impression that we had funding until May 2018, which was clarified. It is good we have these concrete products out. Let’s just make sure we are more visible and we work with other subsidiary bodies. We could do a proper launch and do more outreach. Any different ideas? **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* The report on the subsidiary bodies is not yet finalized. My advice is to continue operating as usual. **[IASC Secretariat]**
* GRG has delivered some very good products, you need to find a way to showcase them and market the group for the outside world. This could be done through launches, through meeting with other tasks teams and offering to put this work into their work, etc. **[IASC Secretariat]**
* Let’s use the work plan to promote our initiatives and make sure we showcase them. Is there something else we need to do regarding the reform process? Should we as a GRG engage on the conversation about how gender is reflected overall? Should we have a conversation with ASG Ursula Mueller on how to do this best? Is this something we should be doing? **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* We want to take the fastest and most direct approach. We could schedule a meeting with ASG Ursula Mueller on the intersection of gender in various issues: WPS, SGDs, humanitarian action. We could also talk to Ana Menendez who is in charge of gender in the UNSG office. **Co-Chair [CARE]**
* Member States are also interested to know more on the implementation of existing tools, they want to see practical concrete measures that have rolled out from these tools that have come out. You could meet as co-chairs with Anastasia in UN OCHA who deals with this. Member States are taking gender inclusion and disability very seriously right now. This is another way to also showcase it. **[IASC Secretariat]**
* The co-chairs can figure out the most natural way of taking this forward, we could do an event with Member States as we want them to urge the UN to implement and follow up on this. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* In regards to appointing gender focal points, we do not have a wide overview of who across the agencies and NGOs could be focal points to drive this forward. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* In the spirit as working as one, let’s try to leverage each other’s infrastructure at the local level. UN OCHA has gender focal points and there are also the GenCap. We can tap into their infrastructure and they can be a good source to anchor our work and get the information that we need. **[UN OCHA]**
* You can tap onto other networks that already exist in other countries like one by UNICEF (MRM) who are already trained on confidentiality, they only need to be trained on gender to do this extra job. This is just my personal recommendation, it might be easier than rolling out and training from scratch. **[IASC Secretariat]**
* Tagging on to an existing roll-out is really hard, you can’t do gender as an add on. **[Oxfam]**
* Women’s rights organizations are currently excluded from the IASC structure but if we empowered them, it would help us dismantle the patriarchy there. There are also some strong RCs and HCs who are real gender champions – we could tap onto them with the help of UN OCHA. **[Oxfam]**
* We could try to show exemplary country structures and work from there and I really like the idea of building on existing structures. **[UNICEF]**
* Tapping onto UNICEF’s MRM is a great idea as they already look at the violations experienced by boys and girls with a gender equality lens. **[GenCap]**
* Resident coordinators have no power over what the agencies do, all the agencies have their own gender policies, this is what is really fascinating about the Policy and Framework, it gives the Resident or Humanitarian Coordinator the responsibility to be able to hold them to account to that. We can start off with some of the countries where we have Resident Coordinators who are willing to be an example for others. **Co-Chair [UNW]**

Role of GRG vis-a-vis other subsidiary bodies

* Let’s talk about our agencies’ involvement in other subsidiary bodies and brainstorm on how best to do that. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* UNW is engaged in the Humanitarian Financing Task Team which just had their Annual Strategic Meeting and one of the action points is to do a study on the impact of the financing gap across a variety of issues – including a chapter on what is the impact vis a vis gender. **[UNW]**
* We are also involved with the Resilience Risk Reduction subsidiary body and our Geneva colleagues also agreed to join the Humanitarian Development Nexus one. **[UNW]**
* The Task Force on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) is a very useful group to work with because it has a similar way to how we engage women men and boys and girls in influencing projects. We have also had a bit of contact with the one on Persons with Disabilities. **[GenCap]**
* We engage with the one on the Persons with Disability and with the GBV AoR. I don’t have all the information but I can report back on this. **[WRC]**
* We also engage with GBV AoR and also with the Grand Bargain track (subsidiaries localization and cash, resilience,) we are cross-sectional. I can get back to you on officially which of the subsidiary IASC groups we are on. **[CARE]**
* The Persons with Disability Task Force is currently working on their guidelines and are having consultations on Fiji and Beirut. I would send a couple of people from this group to push for a portfolio on gender. **[IASC Secretariat]**
* What we can do to improve our engagement with these bodies is that whenever we have this engagement, whoever is there, can share it with the group and get feedback from everyone – so it doesn’t fall only on their shoulders – so we can all provide support and engage whoever is there. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* I don’t know if Oxfam is in any of these subsidiary bodies. **[Oxfam]**
* We are active on the Reference Group on Mental Health and Global Health. **[IMC]**
* We work very closely into integrating gender in disability work in the Persons with Disability Task Force. **[UNICEF]**
* If you are looking at a higher visibility this is the task group I would look at (Persons with Disability) because they have a product that is coming out and you want to be seen as having contributed to that. **[IASC Secretariat]**

**Next Steps: The Co-Chairs will look into the possibilities to better showcase the GRG products (Gender Policy and Accountability Framework) like an event with Member States, a meeting with ASG Ursula Mueller and potentially tapping on to UNICEF’s MRM to support the rolling out of these products. Also, agencies said they could report back on exactly what kind of engagement each agency has with other subsidiary bodies.**

* 1. **Session 2 Recap** [CARE, UN Women]
* Quick update on the 2017 deliverables from UNW**:**
  + The Gender Policy and Accountability Framework – as of December 29th the updated versions were endorsed by the accountability working group so we now have a new policy which reflects the current set up of the IASC (the subsidiary bodies, the humanitarian coordinator, the clusters, the humanitarian program cycle, how it works with roles and responsibilities) and it also reflects the normative development (the WHS and the Agenda for Humanity, the New York Declaration on Migrants, the SDGs, the Sendai framework on DRR and it also reflects key themes in humanitarian policy including Localization, Financing, Cash-based Programming and Innovation). We have been working on it since 2015 on a very collaborative effort.
  + The Gender and Humanitarian Action Handbook - in May 2016 we already had a prototype ready and field tested it in Afghanistan and Ethiopia, involving frontline humanitarian stakeholders: UN, NGOs, local civil society, governments, etc. We received a rich amount of feedback saying that people want practical examples and guidance on how to integrate gender across the different steps of the humanitarian cycle. We took it back and did a large overhaul of the product which is very user-friendly and is now over 400 pages long. It covers all major 11 sectors saying why gender is important, the key concepts, the humanitarian program cycle and the final section is cluster by cluster guidance. It has been shared with the IASC working group and we are waiting for their endorsement on February 14 and in the mean time we have been developing the training working with Oxfam. We did the field testing of the roll-out training in Bangladesh with great participation and a huge amount of feedback: people found it very useful. **[UNW]**
  + In terms of the endorsement process, it has gone to the IASC Working Group for red line comments. They have until February 14th to give comments. If comments come back, it will be presented back for the co-chairs for amendments, if not, then we consider it endorsed from the Working Group with no comments, then ERC will send a message to the Principal’s. **[IASC Secretariat]**

Other Activities

* The Simplified Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs) for L3s are being reviewed, I suggest touching base with Rudy and John. **[IASC Secretariat]**
* We had a relevant side event at ECOSOC in June with a series of activities towards contributing to gender monitoring – with the WHS and the Grand Bargain. **[UNW]**
* We also had 4 meetings with ASG Ursula Mueller. **Co-Chair [UNW]**

GRG and GenCap

* In regards to the GRG and GenCap relationship, we had a Strategic Review and Framework. There were some issues with the way the Steering Committee was working, so they are rotating co-chairs now. This year UNFPA and WFP are rotating co-chairs. Next year’s arrangement will be UN OCHA and UNW co-chairing in an attempt to make sure that the Steering Committee works better. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* The relationship could still be better, we are just at the beginning of setting the bases to connect the GRG and GenCap, we still don’t have a ToR and there is a number of issues that need to be solved for the Steering Committee to work. **[UNFPA]**
* We need to think about issues with the governance structure, the location, the formulation, etc. and we could probably have that kind of discussion in a retreat and be very open on what will work. **[UN OCHA]**
* I would suggest that you highlight that there are steps being taken to bring the two groups together as there was an impression that there was a disconnection between the GRG and the GenCap. **[IASC Secretariat]**

Sending 2017 deliverables to IASC Secretariat

* We have gone through this (the deliverables of the 2017 Annual Plan), we have already sent this to the IASC Secretariat and to ASG Mueller although it hasn’t reached her yet but it’s getting there. If any of you feels that more needs to be written in here, send it to David UNW on Monday and if there are any adjustments we will reflect them. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* We would like to see a more active role played by UN OCHA on some of these activities to see that we contributed more like all the other members (talking about the future activities). **[UN OCHA]**
* We could also include that we held high-level events like on CSW and the Grand Bargain. **Co-Chair [CARE]**
* The Grand Bargain activities do not fully reflect what we have done, it feels like we haven’t done anything. **[Oxfam]**
* Maybe focus on high events that involved coordination – to narrow it a little bit. **[UNHCR]**
* All the pieces that are being moved around and all that this entails did not get captured in this document. **Co-Chair [CARE]**
* I would find 2-3 high-level events that members have engaged on by themselves. **[IASC Secretariat]**
* If we get the input on events at the higher level we can do include it and re-send it. **Co-Chair [UNW]**

**Action Point:**

All agencies who wish to add information to the document, should send to David [UNW] all comments (highlighting only the high-level events) on deliverables from 2017 Annual plan by 2.00pm NYC time on Monday. He will consolidate and send it back to IASC Secretariat.

* 1. **Session 3 2018 Planning** [UN Women]

During this session David [UNW] leads the discussion by typing into the document whatever was agreed by the group and the annual work plan is built with everyone’s input.

**Regarding the Launch of the Gender Policy & Accountability Framework**

* We have to launch them as soon as possible. General agreement on trying to get the UNSG to participate as well as having the Permanent Missions there. Our key audience includes the implementers, the Member States but also the public.
* It was suggested sending a cable from the top to the heads of mission / country offices or field representatives since the policy is very clear on responsibilities and provides guidance notes to those specific roles. The GRG secretariat can draft a letter for GRG members to share with their members although it may not be the best method for the NGOs.

The secretariat, as co-chairs one representing the UN and the other the NGOs could each take the lead on their own. In terms of implementation, it is the gender desk which will monitor. **Co-Chair [UNW]**

* I suggest that the only way we can roll this out is if we start working with countries who are interested and then we have golden nice countries that everyone will then follow. **Co-Chair [UNW]** There is agreement to this idea.

Lunch Break

* 1. **Session 4 Follow-up on WHS** [UN OCHA]
* We are accountable for what came out of the WHS.One of the key commitments is the empowerment of women and girls as well as ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and GBV prevention.
* Over 500 commitments were made under the PACT after the WHS, we run an annual self-report exercise, using that as a basis, we do an annual synthesis report that looks at the progress that has been made and the gaps and challenges remaining.
* 42 organizations or countries submitted a self-report and 66 reported directly on the transformation and empowerment of women and girls. Reports tended to focus on things that predated the WHS rather than new actions (this could be attributable to the short period of time) but also reports tended to emphasize policies and guidance rather than tangible actions.
* Donors are making gender analysis and SADD a funding requirement.
* On sexual and reproductive health almost 1/3 of the reports concerned advocacy programming or funding.36% of the reports that looked at gender, related to GBV. Of all the reports that related to gender only 15% related to women’s leadership and decision making.
* Gaps identified: we need to see a shift to practice and measuring impact, more predictable untargeted funding contingent on programming including gender analysis, assume that GBV is happening and take action treating it as a life-threatening protection issue, and better address the intersecting vulnerabilities of women and girls.
* The reporting cycle is now open for 2018 until April 3. **[UN OCHA]**
* There is not much opportunity to better report on gender as there is a word limit. **[Oxfam]**
* We appreciate the short reporting as we had 2000 pages to go through and analyze, so please use bullet points. **[UN OCHA]**
  1. **Session 5 2018 Planning (part 2)** [UN Women]
* We need to think about the gender desk function and its work in relation to the UN SWAP. Are there any organizations interested in helping with this? **[UNW] -** UNFPA and UN OCHA volunteered to work with UN Women to do this.
* The handbook needs to be finalized, printed, disseminated including the roll out training. Translation is being done – French, Spanish and Arabic. We did the training in Bangladesh and will do Jordan and Ethiopia and a third one to be determined and be done before April. UN OCHA is supporting us with the dissemination of the handbook if we can get it to the regional hubs UN OCHA can help us get it to the country locations. **[UNW]**
* If we are participating on events let’s use this group for support so all of us can talk on behalf of the GRG. **[UNW]**
* UNW is leading on an event for CSW and WRC can lead with an event with Women Deliver, contacting Marcy. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* In terms of getting involved with the other subsidiary bodies, we have some engagement but there could be more but we need to know what’s on their work plan and for those where we haven’t been involved yet, the co-chairs can reach out and then we identify someone to set aside a day to ask the members of other bodies to just tell us how they envision the GRG engaging with their work and we offer to do the same for them. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* We should also reach out to the Humanitarian Data Center in The Hague. **[Oxfam]**

**Next steps: reach out to the Humanitarian Data Center in The Hague and with Women Deliver for potential collaboration and set aside a meeting with the other subsidiary bodies.**

**Action Point: The document with the work plan reflecting the changes agreed here will be shared with everyone.**

* 1. **Session 6 Launching** [UN Women]
* We don’t need to discuss this topic. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
  1. **Session 7 New Co-Chair** [CARE]
* We are looking for the new co-chairs, UNW has held the position for 4 years and HIAS is there until June. There was not a major outpour of requests to be co-chair, we should have a discussion about how you all see the role, is there any prospect of any of your agencies to come forward? It’s important that you know how much time it takes, there is a lot of work to do but it is not overwhelming, especially if you have a unit for it. Is there a possibility of coming forward or do you just see your next 2 years impossible to do this? **Co-Chair [CARE]**
* Our unit is not well staffed yet, we are trying to recruit some good people. We could volunteer but why can’t UNW continue to be the co-chair? **[UN OCHA]**
* Because the ToR says that 2 terms is the maximum limit. **[UNW]**
* It’s up to the group – if that’s the group wants us to continue, we will do it – but if there is another agency who wants and has the capacity to do it, they are very welcomed to take on the role. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* Now, in terms of the NGO seat –Oxfam is interested but unfortunately the rest of us are not in a position to do it, we are stretched thin. We couldn’t have gotten a better candidate than Oxfam. **Co-Chair [CARE]**
* I am concerned about not being based in NYC and to being able to guarantee coming down here periodically, CARE has offered to support us in that sense and we have a team here in NYC. **[Oxfam]**
* The co-chairs meet regularly and we agree on what issues we are going to be raising so, we can talk regularly, it should be fine. **Co-Chair [UNW]**

**Action Point: The Co-Chairs should draft an official document explaining why UNW will continue to Co-Chair, including the unanimity of the decision, the precedents that exist and the fact that currently there isn’t any capacity for other UN agencies to take on this role.**

* 1. **Session 8** [UN Women]
* We need to agree whether we want to have a briefing on the GAM with the GenCap on the second quarter. It may not be possible for the GRG to get behind the GAM and endorse it before it is endorsed by the IASC Principles. GenCap has started the process but it still hasn’t made it to Working Group. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* The idea is to have a practical session of 60-90 minutes to increase everyone’s familiarity with the use of the GAM as well as being able to answer questions and concerns and be able to say that the GRG is familiar with and not only supports the GAM. We will be back to NYC to do longer, full training sessions for a variety of stakeholders. We need to get moving with the roll-out on countries where the GenCaps are deployed for credibility reasons as it has been successful in 10 countries with very positive feedback from practitioners. **[GenCap]**
* We still need to have a discussion on how do the GRG and the GenCap relate to each other. One is a project and one is a subsidiary body. When GenCaps are deployed, they are hosted in the UN agencies, they are not a project from a conceptual point of view? **[UNFPA]**
* Let’s attach a 90min introduction on the GAM for the next meeting, and as soon as there is some movement on the endorsement, we can have a conversation on how we can support it further. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* Couldn’t this be fast tracked? **Co-Chair [CARE]** It needs to be received first, then we can send a recommendation for it to be fast tracked through electronically endorsed. **[IASC Secretariat]**

**Next Steps: The Co-Chairs will plan for the GAM briefing to take place on the date of the next meeting while we wait for the IASC endorsement to figure out how else to support it.**

* 1. **AOB**
* Since we are meeting every quarter, let’s consider the second week of May for the next meeting. The Co-Chairs will be in touch with everyone and send the agenda. We will also be in touch with Deborah [GenCap] regarding the GAM briefing. **Co-Chair [UNW]**
* When is Oxfam taking over the role of Co-chair? - on next meeting or in June? **[Oxfam]** Afterthe next meeting. **Co-Chair [UNW]**

**Action Point: The Co-chairs will be in touch with everyone to decide on the date of the next meeting, probably on the second week of May and will send the agenda ahead of time.**