United Nations Project Office on Governance

Summary Report

**Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on UNPOG Paper on the role of
e-Government and Gender Equality in the Asia-Pacific Region
13th February 2012
Seoul, Republic of Korea (ROK)**

A. Executive Summary

1.   In September 2011, UNPOG launched a study on the role of e-government and gender equality in the Asia-Pacific region. The study focused on conducting,

   a. A review of development practitioners and academia literature on this topic;
   b. A review of various tools and measurements of progress (qualitative and quantitative) on this topic;
   c. The development of a tool to assist governments to measure their level of progress in utilizing e-government in gender equality and in the overall achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3 (MDG); and,
   d. A survey of the region, identifying best practices and challenges in addressing gender equality through e-government.

2.   The study was concluded in January 2012 and was ready for a peer review by various experts from within the United Nations (UN) family as well as by academia, civil society organizations and government institutions within Korea.

3.   To facilitate this UNPOG coordinated and co-hosted with Asia Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC)[1] at Sookmyung University on the 13th February 2012. In the Annex the programme agenda and list of participants is listed.

4.   The EGM concluded with a number of positive suggestions on the enhancing the paper and a number of informal agreements on the way forward in terms of the deepening and widening the paper's research and on the regional workshop.

B. Summary of Proceedings

5.   As a means of enhancing collaboration amongst the UN, the first 2 session in the morning were limited to representatives of the UN family. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP) and UN Women were present, colleagues from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) China and Asian Development Bank (ADB) were unfortunately due to various reasons were not able to attend in person. However their comments and suggestion on the paper were sent in advance to the meeting.

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[1] The lead and researcher of the paper were both from APWINC which is based at Sookmyung University, Seoul, ROK.

6.   The morning was split into 2 sessions, with the first session consisting of a presentation by the authors of the paper and then a discussion on how to improve the paper.

7.   The second session focused on the way forward in terms of the paper and the proposed joint regional workshop with UN Women

C. Outcomes of Morning Session

8.   The group agreed that in terms of the paper,
   a. It needs to have a chapter at the beginning focused on why gender equality, namely MDG3, is important for social and economic development as well as an outline how e-government assists in this development;
   b. A strong framework of what the paper is focused on and what it aims to achieve; and,
   c. The paper needs to draw out more examples and best practices from its survey

9.   The group agreed that in terms of the way forward, given the time span between now and the proposed regional workshop in July 2012,
   a. That the survey should, given the increased number of UN family members on this initiative, cover an additional 4-5 countries[2];
   b. The countries suggested were
      i. China - presence of UN Women, UNESCO and UNDP
      ii. India – UNPOG and UNDP's network on the ground
      iii. East Timor – post conflict country and UN Women & UNPOG have a key contact
      iv. Papua New Guinea (PNG)- coverage of Pacific Islands
      v. Mongolia – UNESCO, UNDP and UNPOG's contacts as well as being a land lock country
   c. Given the above and proposed addition to paper it was agreed that post May 2012, the paper should be up-load to a limited access site and utilizing a Wikipedia approach. That will facilitate the paper to be enhanced with links and additions from institutions and organizations who were part of the EGM.
   d. In terms of the proposed workshop, the following was suggested
      i. It should be hosted in Bangkok in early July 2012 to ensure full participation
      ii. The event should be limited to 2-3 days max
      iii. The event core focus will be to launch the paper as an on-line tool, launch possible pilot projects focused on capacity building of policy makers as well as training of trainers (TOT) using programmes such as International Computer Driving License (ICDL) and to promote greater south-south triangular technical co-operation.

D. Outcomes of Afternoon Session

10.   The afternoon session facilitated participation of key Korean experts from the public sector, academia and NGO community (list of participants is listed in the Annex).

11.   Following the morning session format, the sessions were split in a similar manner, with the final sessions (chaired by the representative from UN Women and the Professor of Ewha Women's University respectively) focused on gaining overall agreement on how to

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[2] The low response rate to the survey from certain countries can be attributed to the lack of on the ground presence

enhance the paper, the countries to deepen and widen the survey, the Wikipedia approach and an outline for the proposed regional workshop in Bangkok.

12.   In terms of the enhancing the existing paper, there was overall agreement on suggestions and recommendations from the morning session with a recommendation that the title may be changed from "gender equality" to "gender empowerment".

13.   In terms of the deepening and widening the survey, there was an agreement on the suggested countries from the morning session, with the proposed addition of the Solomon Islands in case PNG was not possible. There was also the recommendation of conducting focus groups so as to capture the views and comments of women so as to ensure participation from all levels.

14.   There was agreement that in terms of time scale, the paper should be prepared for up-loading into an Wikipedia format by May 2012, thus allowing for others to add best practices, linkages to other material etc before the regional workshop in July. In essence ensuring we have a good and solid product to launch at the workshop.

15.   The regional workshop format and durations was discussed with an agreement, that it should be hosted in early July 2012, there should be a booth outside of the event to facilitate participants to showcase their best practices, presenters should be limited and focused on delivering a short presentation and on the second day the event should have clusters of groups focusing on addressing challenges in 4-5 key areas, such as capacity building, digital divide to best policy and strategic practices to enhance women's empowerment.

E.   Conclusions

16.   The EGM agreed the following core recommendations and suggestion that have already been highlighted above

   a.   The paper should have an introductory chapter and draw out more examples;
   b.   The surveys needs to be widen and deepen to be inclusive of an additional 5 countries that will capture a range from the Pacific Islands, post-conflict to land lock countries;
   c.   The survey working with key groups on the ground in ROK, China, India and where possible should conduct focus groups to capture a wider participation;
   d.   We should aim to have the paper on-line in a Wikipedia approach by May 2012 to facilitate inputs and revisions by all who are part of the EGM; and
   e.   The regional workshop should be held in early July 2012 and be streamlined and compact so as to facilitate discussion, knowledge-sharing and possible launch of pilot projects.

F.   Follow Up

17.   UNPOG will share with all those who were able to attend and those were not the EGM report

18.   UNPOG will review with APWINC on how to enhance the paper as well as undertake the survey in the additional countries proposed as well as prepare for the paper to be up-load.

19.   UNPOG will work with all partners to the EGM, namely UN Women to prepare for the regional workshop in Bangkok in July 2012.

<u>Annex</u>

AAA) List of Participants to the EGM

**EGM on the UNPOG
Publication on Role of e-Government to Promote Gender Equality
in the Asia Pacific Region**

13 February 2012

<u>LIST OF INVITED EXPERTS</u>

	Category	Name	Organization	Position/ Dept.
1	IO	Mr. Vijay Parmar	UNPOG	Senior Governance & Public Administration Expert
2	Academia	Prof. Dongju Choi	APWINC	Director/Professor
3	IO	Ms. Anne-Isabelle Degryse-Blateau	UNDP Policy Center	
4	IO	Ms. Julia Broussard	UN Women China Office	Country Programme Manager
5	IO	Ms. Yuko Kitada	UNESCAP Regional Office, ROK	Programme
6	IO	Mr. Utak Chung	Korean National Commission for UNESCO	Assistant Secretary-General
7	Gov	Ms. Boyoung Rhim	MOPAS	Deputy Director
8	Gov	Ms. Hyun Joo Hong	MOGEF	International Cooperation
9	Gov	Ms. Soo Young Park	KOICA	International Development Cooperation
10	Gov	Dr. Jung Ah Cho	GWDC Gyeonggi Women's Development Center	Executive Director
11	NGO	Dr. Soon Young Jung	Global Gender Initiative	Executive Director
12	Academia	Prof. Eun Mee Kim	Ewha Women's University	Dean/ Professor, School of International Studies

BBB) Programme Agenda for EGM

UNITED NATIONS PROJECT OFFICE ON GOVERNANCE
in collaboration with
the ASIA PACIFIC WOMEN'S INFORMATION NETWORK CENTER
Expert Group Meeting on the UNPOG publication
on the Role of e-Government to Promote Gender Equality
in the Asia Pacific Region

13 February 2012
Sookmyung Women's University

PROGRAMME

Morning	Registration	09:00 - 09:30	Registration of participants
(CLOSED: participants from the international organizations)	Session 1	9:30 - 11:00	Challenges and trends on the application of e-government in achieving MDG 3 (based on the report)
	Session 2	11:00 - 12:00	Partnership for Development amongst the International Organizations, the need for greater collaboration in achieving MDG 3
Lunch Break		12:00 - 1:30	TBC
Afternoon	Session 3	13:40 - 14:30	A presentation on the report
	Session 4	14:30 - 15:10	Feedback from participants on the report and response from APWINC
	Session break	15:10 - 15:20	
	Session 5	15:20 - 16:00	Way forward and open discussion
	Session 6	16:00 - 16:40	Introduction and planning for the regional conference and expected outcomes
Closing & Group photo		16:40 - 17:00	All participants