



### Management Response: DFAT-UN Women Strategic Partnership Framework Review

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action Plan	Timeframe
<i>Future priorities for the next Strategic Partnership Framework</i>				
1. The Partnership should retain and build upon work in the established SPF priority areas, integrating cross-cutting COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives, and separating women's political leadership, WPS, DRR (including climate change) and humanitarian work to allow an appropriate level of focus and clarity on expected performance in each area.	<b>Partially agree</b>	<p>DFAT and UN Women continue to have closely aligned strategic priorities, which will be reflected in the new SPF.</p> <p>The SPF should ensure that strategic priorities remain targeted, relevant and realistic, and are not broadened too far.</p> <p>DFAT notes UN Women's increased involvement in humanitarian action and that its strategic role in this area has not yet been fully defined. This will need to be considered and further explored as part of the SPF negotiations and clearly articulated in the final SPF. DFAT agrees with a 2019 UN Women corporate evaluation which noted that UN Women needed to increase humanitarian action effectiveness and impact by better linking its work to system-wide responses while minimising programming not carried out in partnership or that does not have broader strategic importance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– As part of the SPF negotiations DFAT and UN Women will agree on priority areas based on: DFAT / UN Women policy priorities (including the new UN Women Strategic Plan and DFAT's Partnerships for Recovery); consultation; past performance; and recommendations set out in this review.</li> <li>– DFAT agrees that COVID-19 response and recovery priorities/initiatives should be included as a cross cutting priority in the SPF.</li> <li>– Clarify DFAT's expectations of UN Women's role in humanitarian action during bilateral High Level Consultations (HLCs) on 21 July, and reflect this in the new SPF.</li> </ul>	<p>July – December 2021, as part of SPF negotiations and drafting</p> <p>22 July 2021</p>

<i>How Partnership dynamics, implementation approaches, and operational arrangements can change to support the work.</i>				
2. DFAT could provide non-core resourcing to continue linking policy and research to programming and funding, and invest to translate normative work to the Indo-Pacific.	<b>Agree</b>	DFAT and UN Women value non-core resourcing to support Australian and regional priorities and interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– DFAT will continue to provide non-core resourcing to UN Women including through bilateral, regional and global programming. This will be reflected in the new SPF.</li> <li>– DFAT will continue to advocate for greater linkages between UN Women’s advocacy work and its programs, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. This should include greater collaboration between UN Women headquarters and bilateral programming.</li> </ul>	<p>July – December 2021, as part of SPF negotiations and drafting</p> <p>Ongoing advocacy</p>
3. The next SPF should prioritise joint programming and working through UN agency, CSO, and private sector partnerships and DFAT programs, while maintaining the UN Women identity, brand, and unique value proposition.	<b>Agree</b>	Effective partnerships is one of the principles guiding Australia’s development program. DFAT values the coordination role UN Women plays within the UN system on gender equality, as well as its partnership approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– As part of the SPF negotiations DFAT and UN Women will discuss expectations and principles for joint programming, including in the humanitarian space.</li> <li>– DFAT notes that partners also have an obligation to meet DFAT expectations in terms of compliance and SPF objectives.</li> </ul>	<p>July – December 2021, as part of SPF negotiations and drafting</p>
4. The Partnership should ensure that engagement is strategic and does not add transaction costs without adding value.	<b>Agree</b>	A key benefit of having an overarching Strategic Partnership Framework is to streamline reporting requirements and reduce transaction costs. DFAT acknowledges UN Women’s concerns about some high reporting requirements (particularly for smaller programs with multiple funders) raised in this review.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– DFAT will clarify its expectations for reporting and use SPF negotiations to improve efficiency in how we manage and oversee non-core contributions under SPF subsidiary agreements.</li> <li>– DFAT will map existing reporting requirements for UN Women investments and seek to ensure reporting is as streamlined as possible and commensurate to the activity.</li> </ul>	<p>July – December 2021, as part of SPF negotiations and drafting</p>



<p>5. The Partnership should explore options for lightly earmarked funding.</p>	<p><b>Partially Agree</b></p>	<p>While we recognise there would be some benefits to lightly earmarking core funding (including to ensure resources are directed to Australia's priority areas, specifically the Pacific), we assess that the resources required to do so for both parties would not be commensurate to the value of the partnership (\$7.9m annually). We also recognise the value of predictable multi-year core funding in enabling UN Women to plan and program more strategically and efficiently to deliver on its mandate effectively and meet global challenges, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– DFAT will seek at least to maintain core funding levels under the new SPF and continue to leverage Australia's influence in governing bodies and through the partnership to advocate for our priorities and the Indo-Pacific.</li> <li>– If UN Women does not provide greater clarity about how core funds are allocated (particularly disaggregation of funds by region / country), DFAT reserves the right to lightly earmark funding to ensure resources are directed to Australia's priority areas, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Include in SPF (to be finalised by December 2021)</p>
<p>6. The Partnership should be clear about how core resourcing is used.</p>	<p><b>Agree</b></p>	<p>Greater clarity about how core resourcing is used, particularly disaggregation by region, would significantly improve Australia's ability to communicate and defend the value and results of the DFAT-UN Women Strategic Partnership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Clearly set out how UN Women will contribute to Australia's strategic priorities in the new SPF</li> <li>– Use the HLC and SPF negotiations to urge UN Women to provide greater clarity about how core resourcing is used, for example by adopting other UN agencies' core funding disaggregation approaches (e.g. UNFPA) and including more Pacific examples in annual reporting.</li> </ul>	<p>July – December 2021, as part of SPF negotiations and drafting</p>
<p>7. The Partnership should clarify and strengthen mutual public visibility requirements.</p>	<p><b>Agree</b></p>	<p>Branding is a key mechanism for enhancing the visibility of the Australian Government's international activities and initiatives. We note concerns raised during this review by DFAT regarding UN Women's approach to public visibility of Australia's contributions and their inconsistent use of Australian Government branding. We will seek to address this as part of the new SPF.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– DFAT will use the upcoming HLC and SPF negotiations to clarify DFAT's public visibility requirements. We will review the Pacific Partnership EAW branding guidelines as an example, as suggested in the review.</li> <li>– At the bilateral level, ensure that DFAT and UN Women are clear on branding and visibility guidelines.</li> </ul>	<p>July – December 2021, as part of SPF negotiations and drafting</p>

<p>8. The SPF could identify solutions for UN Women’s capacity constraints, drawing from established DFAT processes and initiatives that provide opportunities for qualified Australians to be involved in development work.</p>	<p><b>Partially Agree</b></p>	<p>Recognising capacity and recruitment constraints, particularly in the Pacific, DFAT is keen to support opportunities for qualified Australians to be involved in UN Women’s work. This is also consistent with DFAT’s broader objective to support an increased presence of Australian nationals in the multilateral system.</p> <p>However, DFAT recognises that this is a broader issue affecting UN Women and that additional action to support the capacity of its country and regional offices is required, in addition to DFAT processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– SPF will include a provision for additional channels of cooperation and expertise through secondment of qualified personnel, including for example, Australian Government officers.</li> <li>– DFAT will continue to advocate for greater core and non-core resourcing in the Pacific, noting there is no presence of UN Women staff in eight of the 14 countries within the Pacific mandate.</li> </ul>	<p>July – December 2021, as part of SPF negotiations and drafting</p>
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