



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

BSP/2012/MoU/H/1

## **LETTER OF COOPERATION**

**BETWEEN**

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION**

**AND**

**UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY  
AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

**Paris, Headquarters  
25 May 2012**

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## LETTER OF COOPERATION

Between

THE UNITED NATIONS  
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL  
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And

THE UNITED NATIONS ENTITY  
FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND  
THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

(hereinafter called “UNESCO”)

(hereinafter called “UN Women”)

### *Respective mandates and priorities*

The mandate of UNESCO is to contribute to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. UN Women’s mandate is to assist Member States and the United Nations system to progress more effectively and efficiently towards the goal of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Entity is also mandated to lead, coordinate and promote the accountability of the UN system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The entity’s establishment does not relieve any other member of the UN system of their responsibility for the promotion of, and support for, gender equality and women’s empowerment.

UN Women’s priority areas are: expanding women’s leadership and participation; ending violence against women; strengthening implementation of the women, peace and security agenda; enhancing women’s economic empowerment; and making gender equality priorities central to national planning, budgeting and statistics. Underpinning these five areas are key functions: providing substantive support to intergovernmental processes to help ensure greater coherence between normative frameworks and operational work; supporting gender mainstreaming across the system; advocacy, knowledge generation, building strategic partnerships with civil society, leading the coordination of UN country teams and promoting the accountability of the UN system as a whole for contributions to gender equality results. UN Women will work in partnership with other United Nations organizations on other goal areas crucial to gender equality and women’s empowerment. In the case of UNESCO, education is a primary area of cooperation.

Gender Equality has been one of two global priorities of UNESCO since 2008, and its Division for Gender Equality in the Office of the Director-General is spearheading efforts to mainstream gender equality throughout all of the programme areas of the Organization. In parallel with gender mainstreaming, UNESCO designs and implements gender-specific programmes with a particular focus on girls’ and women’s education, training of women media professionals, gender sensitivity training for journalists, addressing the gender gap and ICTs, promotion of women in science, science education for girls and the incorporation of gender equality in science policies, women’s role in the domains of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, museums, creative industries and cultural policies, intercultural dialogue and indigenous issues. UNESCO makes a special effort to promote women’s empowerment through their involvement in creative industries, safeguarding living heritage



and in managing museums. UNESCO also supports efforts to prevent and combat gender inequalities and gender-based violence through engagement with a variety of stakeholders as well as interreligious and inter-cultural dialogue.

Both UN Women and UNESCO support research on gender equality and women's empowerment, provide training for women's leadership particularly in situations of post-conflict and democratic transition, education and capacity development for prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.

### *Cooperation*

UNESCO and UN Women have an excellent record of working together to deliver on gender equality and are doing so through a number of joint programme activities in such areas as violence against women and girls, economic empowerment and promotion of livelihood, education for women and girls, gender equality and women's role in culture and development, as well as conflict prevention and mediation.

Recognizing their mutually reinforcing mandates, UN Women and UNESCO will cooperate to enhance the synergy and coherence of their programmes, activities and support to normative intergovernmental work. Both will continue to deliver on gender equality programming within each organization's respective mandate and comparative advantages. UN Women will continue to support UNESCO's Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education, and work collaboratively through the Secretary-General's Global Initiative on Education.

In line with UN Women's coordination role, the Entity will take up the leadership in countries where it has the capacity to do so including chairing of the UN Country Team Gender Theme Groups in countries where it has the capacity and in coordination with other UN agencies. In countries where UN Women will not have the capacity, other entities will chair or lead UN Country Team settings dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. UNESCO will continue to play a major role in UNCT Gender Theme Groups and will work with UN Women to ensure complementarity of results for gender equality. This will be done in a focused and pragmatic manner to maximize the human and financial resources of both agencies. Both UNESCO and UN Women will continue to draw on their considerable technical expertise and programmatic experience in providing support at the global, regional and, most importantly, national level towards ensuring women and men, girls and boys are afforded their human rights, and are able to live side by side with dignity and equal opportunities. As UN Women begins to operationalize more widely in the field, as the lead and coordinating entity on gender equality, it is important to draw from previous good practices of cooperation between both entities to ensure solid working relationships that will support transparent, effective and efficient collaboration.

The System-wide Action Plan (SWAP) for implementation of the CEB Policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women prepared by UN Women in consultation and collaboration with all UN agencies, including active participation by UNESCO, was presented to the HLCP and HLCM in March, and reviewed by the CEB in April 2012.

UNESCO fully supports this initiative and will start reporting against SWAP in line with the roll-out foreseen through 2012.

We are convinced that by working together we will achieve major advances in the important agenda of women's empowerment and gender equality.

Done in two original copies in English, on 25 May 2012.

For the United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

For the United Nations Entity for  
Gender Equality and the empowerment  
of Women



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