

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXPERTS MEET TO ADDRESS FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Preparation underway for the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women

New York, August 31, 2007- The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women will convene an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) to discuss financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women. The meeting, hosted by the Government of Norway, will be held in Oslo, Norway from 4 to 7 September 2007. The findings of the meeting will assist the Commission on the Status of Women in formulating policy recommendations on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, which will be the priority theme of its 52nd session, to be held at UN Headquarters in New York from 25 February to 7 March 2008.

The meeting will stimulate thinking on how to more effectively incorporate gender perspectives into financial mechanisms and processes, and increase resources for promoting gender equality. The experts will consider experiences and approaches that have proven successful, as well as new challenges and emerging trends.

Experts will explore the mechanisms of financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women. Among the issues to be discussed are public finance, including the impact and challenges of gender-responsive budgets and other fiscal policies designed to stimulate gender equality, and steps to ensure that gender equality is a central focus in macroeconomic policies and is adequately addressed in the follow-up processes to the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development. Experts will also examine mobilization of international resources, including bilateral and multilateral assistance and new aid modalities, as well as new and innovative sources of funding for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Independent experts drawn from all regions of the world will participate in the meeting. In addition, observers from governments, the United Nations system, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations and academia will attend. Experts' discussion papers, and a background paper on the theme, can be found on the Website of the Division for the Advancement of Women. A report on the outcomes of the meeting, containing conclusions and recommendations directed toward governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental and regional bodies and civil society, will be produced by the experts.

For more information, please visit

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/financing_gender_equality/egm_financing_gender_equality.htm

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