

# Gender Mainstreaming

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 [unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/un-system-coordination/gender-mainstreaming](https://unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/un-system-coordination/gender-mainstreaming)

The gender equality and women's empowerment mandate is universally agreed on by Member States and encompasses all areas of peace, development and human rights. The mandates on gender equality derive from the United Nations Charter, which unequivocally reaffirmed the equal rights of men and women.

The 1995 [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) endorsed gender mainstreaming as a critical and strategic approach for achieving gender equality commitments. The resulting [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) mandates all stakeholders in development policies and programmes, including UN organizations, Member States and civil society actors, to take action in this regard. Additional commitments are embodied in the [outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly](#), the [Millennium Declaration](#), and a variety of resolutions and decisions of the [UN General Assembly](#), the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the [Commission on the Status of Women](#).

The [1997 agreed conclusions of ECOSOC](#) defined gender mainstreaming as: "The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetrated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality."

As such, gender equality is the overarching and long-term development goal, while gender mainstreaming is a set of specific, strategic approaches as well as technical and institutional processes adopted to achieve that goal. Gender mainstreaming integrates gender equality in national public and private organizations, in central or local policies, and in services and sectoral programmes. In the long run, it aims to transform discriminatory social institutions, laws, cultural norms and community practices, such as those limiting women's access to property rights or restricting their access to public space

## Key tools and resources

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- A repository of [gender mainstreaming policies](#) from organizations across the UN system compiles nearly 100 documents developed since 2000.
- A UN system [repository of resources and tools](#) for capacity development on gender mainstreaming, which aims to enhance the capacities of UN staff in relation to gender-responsive planning, implementation, monitoring and improved accountability.
- A list of [official documentation on UN system-wide policy and strategy](#), with links to resolutions and reports on gender mainstreaming by ECOSOC and the General Assembly, as well as the policy of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

