

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Ministry of Women and Children Affairs**  
**PLAU Unit**  
**Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka**

**Minutes of the LCG-WAGE Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) and UNICEF jointly organized the meeting of the Local Consultative Group for Women's Advancement and Gender Equality on 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2019. The Honorable Secretary, Ms. Kamrun Nahar chaired the meeting. The list of participants is in Annex-A.

**Agenda:**

1. Progress on last meeting decisions
2. Update on 8th Five Year Plan
3. AOB

**I. Review of progress on decisions from the last meeting:**

1. In terms of 8<sup>th</sup> Five Years Plan, UNICEF as Co-chair facilitated among DPs to form a core working group. MOWCA organized the first meeting of core working group on 8<sup>th</sup> FYP (UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, USAID, ADB) on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2019.
2. On the issue of Beijing+25 review process, Dr. Abul Hossain, PD (Deputy Secretary), MSPVAW, MOWCA said that MOWCA could not organize the meeting with CSOs in October. A delegation from MOWCA and other ministries led by the State Minister, MoWCA participated in an Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Beijing+25 Review from 27 to 29 November in Bangkok, Thailand. MOWCA is planning to organize a sharing meeting with relevant stakeholders, including CSO in February before the CSW64. This year the sharing will be linked with government delegation's preparation for CSW64.
3. For the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls, MOWCA and the UN System hold a National Dialogue on Actions Against Sexual Violence on 25<sup>th</sup> November. The outcome of the event was a 10 action points to stand against rape.

**II. Update on 8th Five Year Plan**

MOWCA has received guidelines from General Economic Division (GED) for their inputs on the 8<sup>th</sup> FYP process. The guidelines and reporting template have been shared with the DPs and with the 8<sup>th</sup> FYP core working group. MOWCA provided comments on the Gender Equality background paper drafted by the UN WOMEN. It was agreed that the paper will be shortened, made more constructive, present prioritized actions instead of a long list. Since the deadline to submit MoWCA's input to the GED has gone, a new date has been set which is 28 December, in this regard, the core working group was requested to coordinate the editing of the paper. From UN Women Md. Shohel Rana has been selected to coordinate the editing.

Ms. Mahmuda Rahman Khan, USAID and Ms. Tahera Jabeen, DFID emphasized that while it is important that the Gender Equality paper is improved and used for MoWCA's progress reporting, it is crucial for MOWCA to make sure that gender expertise is available to the GED drafting committee. It was suggested that only handing over the GE background paper to GED may not be enough. Md Shohel Rana, UN Women, emphasized that it would be important for MOWCA to lobby with GED to consider gender indicators from GE paper to be included in the Development Result Framework of the 8<sup>th</sup> FYP.

The Chair said that she has already received assurance from Mr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary, GED that gender equality will be considered in the next 5-year plan and MoWCA's inputs will be included in the plan MOWCA is already part of the process. GBV, gender and infrastructure, migration, legal and social research and other issues that MOWCA proposed will be in the 8<sup>th</sup> FYP. She said that GED will also share the draft document with MOWCA and there will be opportunity for the LCG-WAGE members to provide inputs. She advised Mr. Sheikh Rafiqul Islam to submit the completed reporting template by 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. Mr. Md. Rafiqul Haque, Additional Secretary, MoWCA will have a meeting with Ms. Ferdousi Begum, consultant of UN-Women on 19<sup>th</sup> December to discuss the draft.


### III. AOB: Coordination meeting on ECM Projects, follow up of " call for action": National Dialogue on 16 Days of Activism

- **Coordination meeting on ECM projects of MOWCA with DPs:** Ms. Noreen informed the meeting that UNICEF is doing a mapping on End Child Marriage (ECM) programmes/initiatives in Bangladesh which will be completed in early 2020. Ms. Noreen, UNICEF, suggested that for harmonization and coherence among all the projects of MoWCA and DP teams, it is important that the projects are well coordinated and aligned to the NAP on ECM. She requested MOWCA to call a coordination meeting with all concerned DPs and Project Directors to work on ECM in early 2020.
- **Progress of 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls:** Ms. Noreen said that the National Dialogue on Actions Against Sexual Violence was held on 25th November. Around 200 participants from government, CSOs including young people joined the program. The dialogue resulted in 10 action points to stand against rape which have been shared with several DPs and CSOs. She emphasized on mechanism to move forward to implement plan for the actions. She welcomed government and DPs thought on this. Ms. Shamima Pervin, Chief of Gender, UNFPA said implementation plan of this actions should reinforce round the year.
- The Secretary advised that action against rape can implement through campaign to aware media, community and also continue effective advocacy with the policy makers. Ms. Noreen Khan, UNICEF expected that there would be bilateral discussion to get a concrete implementation plan for 10 action points to stand against rape.

### IV. Decisions:

- i) Mr. Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, Additional Secretary, MOWCA will have a meeting with Mr. Md. Shohel Rana, UN WOMEN and with the consultant Ms. Ferdousi Begum on 19<sup>th</sup> December. He will also lead the process to get and incorporate all the inputs from MOWCA and DPs by 24<sup>th</sup> of December and submit the report to GED.
- ii) Dr. Abul Hossain will call a meeting in February, 2020 with relevant stakeholders and CSOs to share documents on Beijing +25 Review, outcome documents of Ministerial Conference at Bangkok and draft agreed documents before upcoming 64<sup>th</sup> Commission on Status of Women.
- iii) MOWCA, UN WOMEN and UNFPA will jointly work for implementation of 10 action points to stand against rape and run a campaign on actions against rape throughout the year with policy makers, media and community.
- iv) MOWCA and UNICEF will arrange a coordination meeting jointly on ECM projects with DPs and project directors in early 2020.
- v) DPs of LCGW-WAGE will share a brief report on ECM programmes and projects that they are engaged with MOWCA.

In closing remark, the Chair thanked all participants for their valuable comments and wished all of them a happy new year in advance.

 30/12/2019  
(Kamrun Nahar)

Secretary

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs



## **Annex 1: Participants list**

1. Ms. Kamrun Nahar, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
2. Mr. Bikash Kishore Das, Additional Secretary, Statistics and Informatic Division
3. Dr. Abul Hossain, Project Director, MSPVAW, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
4. Ms. Noreen Khan, Gender and Development Specialist, UNICEF
5. Ms. Farida Pervin, Additional Secretary, MOWCA
6. Ms. Tahera Jabeen, Social Development Advisor, DFID
7. Ms. Mahmuda Rahman Khan, Senior Program Development Specialist, Gender, Donor Coordination and Donor Liaison, USAID
8. Md. Iqbal Hussain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
9. Ms. Mushfiqua Zaman Satiar, Advisor-SRHR and Gender, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
11. Ms. Shamima Pervin, Acting Chief - Gender, UNFPA Bangladesh
12. Mr. S M Shakil Akhter, Deputy Chief, MOWCA
13. Md. Mohiuddin Quader, Local Government Division
14. Dr. Amitavo Chakrabartty, Deputy Secretary, MoFL
15. Md. Shohel Rana, Coordinator, UN-Women Bangladesh
16. Ms. Tahmina Huq, Programme Officer-Gender, UNICEF
17. Ms. Nurun Nahar Begum, Senior Assistant Chief (PLAU), MoWCA
18. Ms. Humaira Farhanaz, Officer, UNFPA
19. Ms. Kazal Islam NDC, JMS, MOWCA
20. Ms. Giulia Pelosi, Programme Specialist-EVAW, UNWOMEN
21. Ms. Jenni Wisnny, UNRCO,
22. Ms. Veronika Flegar, Advocacy- SRHR and Gender, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
23. Mr. Asif Kashem, Senior Manager, Australian High Commission Dhaka Office
24. Ms. Arifa Afrin, Assistant Secretary -UN, MoFA
23. Ms. Kamrun Nahar Sumi, Senior Assistance Chief, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, MoF&W
25. Ms. Zarin Zeba Khan, ESSP, Global Affairs Canada
26. Ms. Kismot Jahan Ferdousi, Senior Assistant Chief, MOWCA
27. Mr. Mosharrof Hossain, Librarian, MOWCA