

Media Release

UN and Norway Partner to Strengthen Gender Equality in Ethiopia



December 12, 2012, Addis Ababa: The United Nations in Ethiopia and the Royal Norwegian Government have signed a 3.17 million USD (18 million NOK) partnership agreement to support the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Joint Programme for the period 2013-2015.

“This partnership is a manifestation of the commitment of the Government of Norway in support of the national processes of Ethiopia,” UN Resident Coordinator in Ethiopia, Mr Eugene Owusu acknowledged, adding “and this particular partnership agreement is targeted towards Gender Equality and Women Empowerment as Gender is one of the MDGs that Ethiopia is slightly off track”. Mr. Owusu also noted that the UN is committed to step up and scale up to support Ethiopia to achieve the goal.

“We support the concerted efforts of the UN with focus on Gender as being one of the priority areas for the Government of Norway,” underlined His Excellency Ambassador Odd-Inge Kvalheim, Royal Norwegian Government.

The Gender Joint Programme, with total budget of 39 million USD to be utilized over a three year period, covers four areas, namely; increased accessibility of financial and non-financial services for economically disadvantaged women; creating an enabling environment and provided support for girls and women to improve participation and access to secondary and tertiary education; strengthening institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming; and increasing institutional capacity and community level knowledge to promote and protect the rights of women and girls.

The Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Joint Programme is among the three flagship joint programs initiated by the Government of Ethiopia and the UN Country Team under the Delivering as One mechanism.

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