**Frequently Asked Questions on Inter-Agency Pooled Funds**

***What is the policy context for inter-agency pooled funds?***

***Answer:*** Multi-Partner Trust Funds (MPTFs) and other inter-agency pooled funding mechanisms (i.e., joint programmes using the pass-through fund management approach) represent a powerful tool to respond to the new development agenda which is much more ambitious and universal in nature, and fit into the larger trend of issue-based financing. In recent years they have become an important funding mechanism to channel and leverage resources in an effective and coordinated way in support of UN system-wide development efforts, and represent an effective tool to demonstrate that the UN is “fit-for-purpose”.

Their increasing use is a direct consequence of this shift in the development effectiveness agenda and its emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships interested in innovative blended or pooled financing. By placing strong emphasis on producing broad outcomes based on a shared theory of change, MPTFs allow for effective collaboration of a variety of UN and non-UN partners in pursuit of shared objectives. The pooling of resources facilitates the mitigation of shared risks, increases the visibility and transparency for all development actors, and holds the potential to reduce transaction costs and thereby improve the UN’s value proposition.

According to the Secretary-General, “The indivisible and interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals has reinforced the imperative for more flexible and predictable funding. While this involves bringing a better balance between core and non-core funding, it also underscores the need to enhance “core-like” resources, such as contributions to inter-agency pooled funds. Inter-agency pooled funds help strengthen coordination and collaboration across entities of the United Nations development system[[1]](#footnote-2)".

***What are the main advantages of inter-agency pooled funds?***

***Answer:*** Advantages of inter-agency pooled funds include the following:

* + **Leverage finance and UN coordinated action:** at the global, regional or country level
	+ **Consolidate contributions:** from multiple financing partners (including public and private sector) into a coherent approach
	+ **Coherence and increased coordination:** align activities around key priorities and outcomes reducing fragmentation from multiplicity of separate projects
	+ **Reduced transactions costs:** by using pre-agreed harmonized templates and harmonized reporting
* **Low-cost mechanism:** using pass-through funding modality (Flat 1% AA fee + 7% GMS fee ) and standard operational procedures
* **UN Funding Compact:** Member States have committed significantly increase contributions through inter-agency pooled funds, and UN entities committed to incorporate quality management features across pooled funds

***What are 'common management features', why were they introduced, and which mechanisms exist to monitor compliance of inter-agency pooled funds with the common management features?***

***Answer:*** Common management features were introduced to provide criteria to define quality in pooled funds, *based on experience and expectations of donors, development partners and the UN.*

**The Common management features** *introduced in the Funding Compact were introduced to improve the quality of inter-agency pooled funding. The features are:*

1. *Innovation features*
2. *Theory of change*
3. *Solid Results-Based Management systems,*
4. *Well-functioning governance bodies*
5. *Effective secretariats*
6. *Quality assurance on issues of United Nations norms and values;*
7. *Risk management systems and strategies;*
8. *Operational effectiveness*
9. *Reporting*
10. *Visibility*
11. *Transparency standards*
12. *Planning and funding for joint and system wide evaluations that meet UNEG norms and standards.*

***What are 3 essential characteristics of any inter-agency pooled fund?***

***Answer:*** Strong theory of change and results; a common fund administered by an Administrative Agent

A **UN inter-agency pooled fund** is a funding mechanism that has the three following characteristics: (\*)

1. Fund design and administration: The pooled fund is designed to support a clearly defined programmatic purpose and results framework through contributions - usually received from more than one contributor - that are co-mingled, not earmarked to a specific UN entity and held by a UN fund administrator.

2. Joint Governance/Fund operations: Decisions on project / programmatic allocations are made by a UN-led governance mechanism, taking into account the programmatic purpose and results framework of the fund.

3. Fund implementation: Fund implementation is (fully or largely) entrusted to UN entities that assume the programmatic and financial accountability for the resources received

(\*) [CEB/2015/HLCM/FB/9](https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Item-3-Options-Paper-for-FBN-harmonised-cost-recovery-rate-16-June-15-1.pdf), 16 June 2015

***What are the main functions of a fund secretariat / SC support office and how is it normally funded?***

***Answer:*** The Fund Secretariat/Steering Committee Support Office is the entity responsible for the programmatic coordination and monitoring of the Fund. The Secretariat is normally hosted by one of the Participating UN Organisations, and should be funded by a dedicated project document approved by the Steering Committee. It should ideally be supported by a high level official of this hosting agency, with the ability to provide substantive advice and strategic recommendations to the Steering Committee, not related to administrative tasks.

As per the MPTF MOU/SAA, the costs of such support may be charged as direct costs to the MPTF with the approval of the Steering Committee. The budget is agreed and approved annually by the Steering Committee.

The Fund Secretariat/Steering Committee Support Office plays a critical role in supporting the Steering Committee in the strategic oversight of the fund, as well as establishing fund operational procedures and monitoring fund implementation in line with the fund results matrix.  Therefore, it is important that there are dedicated resources to carry out these functions within the first six months of fund establishment.  Ideally, the Head of the Secretariat will have proven programme management expertise preferably in a UN context, prior experience working with MPTFs, and have experience in conducting assessments (eg, risk, monitoring, etc).  The Secretariat should also have a technical expertise, or access to expertise, on gender equality and have the capacity to conduct assessments related to gender, and analyze the resource base for gender equality objectives, or be able to draw on such technical expertise from the UNSDG.

Responsibilities of the Fund Secretariat/Steering Committee Support Office generally involve, typically:

* Advise the SC on strategic priorities, programmatic and financial allocations (based on the inputs of inter-agency working groups and the AA, if applicable)
* Provide logistical and operational support to the SC, including preparing all decisions with related background documents, and ensuring that SC decisions are recorded and made available to all stakeholders;
* Prepare Fund Transfer Requests (FTRs) for approval by the Steering Committee, and submit the signed FTRs as an instruction to the Administrative Agent;
* Organize calls for proposals and appraisal processes;
* Ensure the monitoring and management of the operational risks and Fund performance
* Consolidate annual and final narrative reports provided by the PUNOs and share with the SC for review as well as with AA for preparation of consolidated narrative and financial reports;
* Facilitate collaboration and communication between PUNOs to ensure programmes are implemented effectively.
* Liaise with the AA on fund administration issues, including issues related to project/fund extensions and project/fund closure.
* Prepare a Fund Operational Manual for approval by the Steering Committee, in consultation with the AA
* Ensure communication and visibility on the fund including mentioning specific donors of the fund

Generally, the Secretariat of an MPTF based at the country level, is located in the Office of the Resident Coordinator18 and reports to the Resident Coordinator in his/her capacity of (co)-Chair of the Steering Committee, but different arrangements can be made considering the Governance if the Fund. The Secretariat should be funded through a dedicated project approved by the Steering Committee and administered by one of the PUNOs. For regional and global MPTFs, the Secretariat role should ideally be placed with the PUNO who is best placed to fulfill the Secretariat functions.

***How should AA be selected and what main responsibilities does AA fulfill?***

***Answer:*** The AA is the administrative interface between the donors contributing to the particular MPTF and the PUNOs. The AA accepts the appointment by PUNOs, which continues until it expires or is terminated in accordance with the MOU, and performs the functions as impartial fiduciary management and financial reporting agent. The PUNOs assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the AA.

The entity selected as AA is typically best placed to fulfill the AA functions for that particular MPTF, and is frequently also a PUNO. Where the AA is also a PUNO, a clear delineation, including distinct reporting lines and an accountability framework, will be established and maintained within the organization designated as the AA between its functions as an AA and its functions as a PUNO.

The AA will be entitled to allocate an administrative fee of one percent (1%) of the amount contributed by each donor, to meet the AA’s costs of performing the AA’s functions, roles and responsibilities as described in the MOU and in the AA protocol.

The key roles of the AA include:

* Support the development of the Fund concept note and the TOR. This includes notably support for the development of a logical framework based on the theory of change and the design of the fund architecture, governance arrangements and the establishment of legal instruments.
* Sign Standard Administrative Arrangements with donors and receive contributions from donors that wish to provide support to the Fund through the AA. It is noted that the AA cannot enter into any other arrangements with donors that would impose responsibilities on PUNOs without their prior written approval;
* Administer such funds received in accordance with its regulations, policies and procedures, the relevant MOU and Fund TOR and SAA, including the provisions relating to winding up the Fund account and related matters;
* Subject to availability of funds, disburse such funds to each of the PUNOs in accordance with decisions from the Steering Committee, taking into account the budget set out in the approved programmatic document and any subsequent revisions thereof;
* Ensure consolidation of statements and reports, based on submissions by the Secretariat, which consolidates reports provided by each PUNO, as set forth in the Terms of Reference, and provide these to each donor that has contributed to the Fund account and to the SC;
* Provide final reporting, including notification that the Fund has been operationally completed;
* Disburse funds to any PUNO for any additional costs of tasks that the Steering Committee may decide in accordance with the TOR.

***What is the role of the MPTF Office?***

***Answer:*** When selected as the Administrative Agent for a fund, the role of the MPTF Office is to support fund design in line with best practices. In the administration of the Fund, the MPTFO would carry out the standard Administrative Agent services as defined in the Protocol on the Administrative agent for MPTFs and Joint Programmes:

(a) Sign SAAs with donors and receive contributions from donors that wish to provide financial support to the Fund/Programme through the AA. It is noted that the AA cannot enter into any other agreements with donors that would impose responsibilities on PUNOs without their prior written consent;

(b) Administer such funds received in accordance with its regulations, policies and procedures, as well as the relevant MOU and Fund Terms of Reference (TOR) and SAA, including the provisions relating to winding up the Fund account and related matters;

(c) Subject to availability of funds, disburse such funds to each of the PUNOs in accordance with decisions from the Steering Committee (SC), taking into account the budget set out in the approved TOR/JP documents;

(d) Ensure consolidation of statements and reports4, based on submissions provided by each PUNO, as set forth in the TOR/JP document and provide these to each donor that has contributed to the Fund/Programme account and to the SC;

(e) Provide final reporting, including notification that the Fund/Programme has been operationally completed;

(f) Disburse funds to any PUNO for any additional costs of the task that the SC may decide in accordance with the programmatic document/JP document

As per the UNSDG protocol, MPTFO as the AA may be, and often is, requested to support the design stage of the Fund/Programme even before the formal decision to select the AA is made. In particular, the AA may be requested to contribute to the design of the Fund concept note or TOR/JP document. In providing support during the design stage, the AA will ensure that the stakeholders involved in the fund design process are duly informed of the applicable UNDG policies and guidance relevant to the design of the Fund/Programme. Irrespective of the role of the AA in fund design, the accountability for delivering the Fund outputs and outcomes, once the Fund is established, lies with the PUNOs and the SC.

***Which role (if any) UNSDCF's Results Groups play in development, management and/or supporting a country-based MPTF?***

***Answer:*** Results Groups or a Technical Committee may play a role in the identification, review and/or development of projects/programmes as well as a role in the prioritization of allocation of contributions.

***What roles do PUNOs play in establishing, participating and managing MPTFs?***

***Answer:*** The achievement of development outcomes outlined in the MPTF theory of change will require the leveraging of the mandates and specific capacities of several UN Organizations. Two or more of these UN organisations can formally decide to establish a MPTF; they become PUNOs by concluding the [MOU](http://www.undg.org/docs/2795/Standard-Memorandum-of-Understanding-%28MOU%29%2C10.30.2008.doc) and thereby appointing the AA. Non-UN entities that have an intergovernmental character and have privileges and immunities comparable to the UN may also become PUNOs by concluding a separate [MOU for Non-UN Participating Organizations](https://undg.org/main/undg_document/mou-for-non-punos/) with the AA. Each PUNO operates under its own financial regulations, rules and policies and assumes full financial and programmatic accountability for the funds disbursed to it by the AA and for the implementation of the projects/programmes. PUNOs are entitled to recover their indirect programme support cost according to UNSDG-endorsed rate.  Currently, the rate is set at 7%14 irrespective of individual PUNO’s standard programme support cost. All other costs incurred by each PUNO in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund, including possible responsibilities for hosting a Secretariat, will be recovered as direct costs.

***What is the role of UNRC in establishing, participating and managing country-based MPTFs?***

***Answer:*** According to the 2021 Management and Accountability Framework (2021), the RC provides governance and oversight of any UNCT-wide funding and financing instruments. The Resident Coordinator will provide governance and oversight of the Fund, by (co-) chairing the Steering Committee. As a (co-) chair of the Steering Committee, the Resident Coordinator will typically:

* Provide strategic leadership of the Fund, in coordination with the SC co-Chair and the other members of the JSC;
* Ensure that the Fund aligns with UNSDCF, national development needs and priorities, and the 2030 Agenda;
* Promote partnerships throughout the Fund’s life cycle in coordination with the UNCT and other members of the JSC, based on the UNSDCF partnerships and resource mobilization strategy. According to the Management and Accountability Framework, RCs coordinate UNCT-wide efforts for resource mobilization for the Cooperation Framework.. While UNCT members (irrespective of physical location) retain their ability to fundraise locally for their own or joint programmes with other entities, they will ensure alignment to and consistency with agreed UNCT/UN Cooperation Framework Funding Framework and resource mobilization strategy through adequate coordination with the RC, to avoid (perceived or real) competition for funds and maximize the opportunities for joint programming/programmes;
* Provides information on the Fund to the UNCT;
* Overseeing the management of the Fund, in coordination with the SC co-Chair and the other members of the Steering Committee including making funding allocations;
* Signing all Fund Transfer Requests and other documents addressed to the Administrative Agent on behalf of the Fund, on the basis of decisions endorsed by the JSC.
* Oversees the work of the Secretariat of the Fund on behalf of the JSC, while one of the PUNOs administratively hosts the Secretariat through implementation of the Secretariat Support project.
* Makes decisions through a consultative process. In the absence of consensus within the UNCT regarding the strategic objectives in the UN Cooperation Framework or related allocation of UNCT-wide pooled funding the RC will take the final decision.

***Who approves the creation of MPTF and which documents are required for MPTF creation?***

***Answer:*** Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) define the parameters of an MPTF, documented in the Terms of Reference, and define a Steering Committee for the MPTF to provide strategic direction and decide on allocation decisions of the fund. Through the standard MoU PUNOs appoint and Administrative Agent. Once the MoU, which annexes the Terms of Reference of the MPTF, is signed, the MPTF is created. Once the MoU is signed, the Administrative Agent can sign contribution agreements (Standard Administrative Arrangements) with contributors to the fund.

***What is the standard process followed for disbursement of funds from AA to PUNOs and from one PUNO to another PUNO?***

***Answer:*** The Administrative Agent disburses funds to PUNOs based on instructions from the Steering Committee, conveyed by the fund Secretariat/Convening Agency in the case of a Joint Programme. Once the PUNO receives the funds there should not be any further transfers of the funds to another UN Organization as this would be in contravention of the MoU/ SAA that limits the indirect support costs to 7%. All UN Organizations receiving funds from an inter-agency pooled fund should receive funds directly from the AA.

***Is donor earmarking allowed within a single MPTF and, if so, to what extent?***

***Answer:*** Earmarking should be discouraged to allow for the maximum level of flexibility for making allocation decisions. Earmarking can be made at the outcome level of a fund. Some donors have requested earmarking to specific projects or Participating UN Organizations. This should be discouraged by all means, since such granular levels of earmarking are akin to project specific funding. If donors wish to fund specific projects, they should fund projects directly and would be subject to the levy.

***What are the standard reporting requirements for an MPTF?***

***Answer:*** Per the MoU/SAA, Annual and final reporting will be results-oriented and evidence based. Annual and final narrative reports will compare actual results with expected results at the output and outcome level, and explain the reasons for over or underachievement. The final narrative report will also contain an analysis of how the outputs and outcomes have contributed to the overall impact of the Programme. The financial reports will provide information on the use of financial resources against the outputs and outcomes in the agreed upon results framework. Per the SAA, reports and statements are to be made available publicly, for example, the MPTFO shares information/data on the MPTFO Gateway site: <https://mptf.undp.org/>

The required reports are:

1. Annual consolidated narrative progress reports, to be provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year;
2. Annual consolidated financial reports, [[2]](#footnote-3)as of 31 December with respect to the funds disbursed from the Programme Account, to be provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year;
3. Final consolidated narrative report, after the completion of the activities in the Joint Programme Document, including the final year of the activities in the Joint Programme Document, to be provided no later than six months (30 June) after the end of the calendar year in which the operational closure of the Programme occurs;
4. Final consolidated financial report, based on certified final financial statements and final financial reports received from Participating UN Organizations after the completion of the activities in the approved programmatic document/Joint Programme Document, including the final year of the activities in the approved programmatic document/Joint Programme Document, to be provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year in which the financial closing of the Programme occurs.

Financial statements:

(a) Certified annual financial statement (“Source and Use of Funds” as defined by UNDG guidelines) to be provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year; and

(b) Certified final financial statement (“Source and Use of Funds”) to be provided no later than five months (31 May) after the end of the calendar year in which the financial closing of the Programme occurs.

***What is the difference between an MPTF and Joint Programme? When should an MPTF be used? When should a Joint Programme?***

***Answer:*** The key difference between a Joint Programme and Multi-Partner Trust Fund is that in a Joint Programme, the activities, budget and resource allocations are known upfront and documented in the Joint Programme document. In an MPTF, the broad results areas are known, but the actual projects that will be implemented are not yet known, and a Steering Committee would make resource allocations based on projects submitted by the Participating Organizations.

***Is the 1% Levy applicable to Joint Programmes (pass-through and parallel) and Multi-Partner Trust Fund?***

***Answer:*** UN inter-agency pooled funds such as MPTFs and pass-through Joint Programmes are exempt from the Levy. In terms of parallel funding modality of Joint Programmes, the levy would apply because the donors would be providing project specific funding to each of the PUNOs, so each PUNO would have to report separately to each donor.

***Are Joint Programmes or Multi-Partner Trust Funds attractive to donors?***

***Answer:*** Yes. Donors benefit through simplified and harmonized reporting and reduction of transaction costs. For example, in a joint programme with 3 Participating UN Organizations (PUNO), donors would sign (and monitor, and close) one donor agreement with the Administrative Agent rather than three separate agreements with each PUNO, thereby reducing their transaction costs by a third. Further, Joint Programmes fosters greater cooperation amongst agencies and breaks silos. In addition, donors can combine their funding, to reduce risk as well as contribute to something larger than what their individual contribution can achieve. The Funding Compact also encourages contributions to inter-agency pooled funds by setting a target.

***Is there a template for narrative reporting? Can you share good examples of narrative reporting?***

***Answer:*** The UNSDG approved a template for narrative reporting. <https://mptf.undp.org/sites/default/files/documents/2024-02/2023_annual_narrative_programme_reporting_template_english.docx>

***What is the difference between Convening Agent and Secretariat?***

***Answer:*** The term ‘Convening Agent’ is used in a Joint Programme, and is also defined in the MoU for Joint Programmes. The term ‘fund Secretariat’ is used for Multi-Partner Trust Funds. Both the Convening Agent and Fund Secretariat play key roles in supporting the JP/MPTF Steering Committee and in coordination. In a Joint Programme, the Convening Agent coordinates the PUNOs. The role of a Fund Secretariat is broader, since a fund has multiple programmes, and frequently has a call for proposal process where there is frequently a technical review process to select the programmes that will be funded.

***What is the Gender Equality Marker?***

***Answer:*** The Gender Equality Marker (GEM) is a financial tracking mechanism to measure spending on gender equality as a primary objective, as well as substantial and limited gender mainstreaming efforts. The standard, system-wide Gender Equality Marker (UN GEM)[[1]](https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=es&rs=en-US&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FFMOGsubgrouponpooledfunding%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F57f79a4c11f742518c80d2bce23a260e&wdlor=c5B3CDC3E-4F4F-483E-B913-F372BEC781B5&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=770524A1-804C-8000-B70E-82B909696CBE.0&uih=sharepointcom&wdlcid=es&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&usid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&newsession=1&sftc=1&uihit=docaspx&muv=1&cac=1&sams=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&sdp=1&hch=1&hwfh=1&dchat=1&sc=%7B%22pmo%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%22%2C%22pmshare%22%3Atrue%7D&ctp=LeastProtected&rct=Normal&wdorigin=AuthPrompt.Outlook-Body.Sharing.DirectLink.Copy&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush#_ftn1) has a scale with four levels: GEM 0 (no contribution), GEM 1 (limited contribution), GEM 2/2A (significant contribution) and GEM 3/2B (principal objective).

In 2019, the [Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force (HLTF) on Financing for Gender Equality](https://gendercoordinationandmainstreaming.unwomen.org/building-block/high-level-task-force-financing-gender-equality) endorsed the recommendation to expand the application of the GEM to inter-agency pooled funds. This recommendation is also supported by the 2023 ECOSOC Resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all programmes and policies in the UN system, para 10 (i).[[1]](https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=es&rs=en-US&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FFMOGsubgrouponpooledfunding%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F57f79a4c11f742518c80d2bce23a260e&wdlor=c5B3CDC3E-4F4F-483E-B913-F372BEC781B5&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=770524A1-804C-8000-B70E-82B909696CBE.0&uih=sharepointcom&wdlcid=es&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&usid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&newsession=1&sftc=1&uihit=docaspx&muv=1&cac=1&sams=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&sdp=1&hch=1&hwfh=1&dchat=1&sc=%7B%22pmo%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%22%2C%22pmshare%22%3Atrue%7D&ctp=LeastProtected&rct=Normal&wdorigin=AuthPrompt.Outlook-Body.Sharing.DirectLink.Copy&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush#_ftn1) In 2022, the marker was adopted by the UN CEB as a UN Financial Data Standard[[2]](https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=es&rs=en-US&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FFMOGsubgrouponpooledfunding%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F57f79a4c11f742518c80d2bce23a260e&wdlor=c5B3CDC3E-4F4F-483E-B913-F372BEC781B5&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=770524A1-804C-8000-B70E-82B909696CBE.0&uih=sharepointcom&wdlcid=es&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&usid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&newsession=1&sftc=1&uihit=docaspx&muv=1&cac=1&sams=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&sdp=1&hch=1&hwfh=1&dchat=1&sc=%7B%22pmo%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%22%2C%22pmshare%22%3Atrue%7D&ctp=LeastProtected&rct=Normal&wdorigin=AuthPrompt.Outlook-Body.Sharing.DirectLink.Copy&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush#_ftn2) for systemwide reporting of financial data.

Regarding inter-agency pooled funds, the [2022 UNSDG Guidance on a new generation of Joint Programmes (JPs](https://unsdg.un.org/resources/guidance-note-new-generation-joint-programmes)) sets the application of the GEM in JPs. On MPTFs, an Annex to the UNSDG Guidance on Establishing, Managing and Closing Multi-Donor Trust Funds [3]on the application of the Gender Equality Marker will be launched in 2024.

1 <https://unsceb.org/data-standards-united-nations-system-wide-reporting-financial-data>

[[1]](https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=es&rs=en-US&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FFMOGsubgrouponpooledfunding%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F57f79a4c11f742518c80d2bce23a260e&wdlor=c5B3CDC3E-4F4F-483E-B913-F372BEC781B5&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=770524A1-804C-8000-B70E-82B909696CBE.0&uih=sharepointcom&wdlcid=es&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&usid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&newsession=1&sftc=1&uihit=docaspx&muv=1&cac=1&sams=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&sdp=1&hch=1&hwfh=1&dchat=1&sc=%7B%22pmo%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%22%2C%22pmshare%22%3Atrue%7D&ctp=LeastProtected&rct=Normal&wdorigin=AuthPrompt.Outlook-Body.Sharing.DirectLink.Copy&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush#_ftnref1) <https://undocs.org/E/RES/2023/11>

[[2]](https://euc-word-edit.officeapps.live.com/we/wordeditorframe.aspx?ui=es&rs=en-US&wopisrc=https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%2Fsites%2FFMOGsubgrouponpooledfunding%2F_vti_bin%2Fwopi.ashx%2Ffiles%2F57f79a4c11f742518c80d2bce23a260e&wdlor=c5B3CDC3E-4F4F-483E-B913-F372BEC781B5&wdenableroaming=1&mscc=1&hid=770524A1-804C-8000-B70E-82B909696CBE.0&uih=sharepointcom&wdlcid=es&jsapi=1&jsapiver=v2&corrid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&usid=5992f295-97df-e4e9-e742-d599cf7ed1aa&newsession=1&sftc=1&uihit=docaspx&muv=1&cac=1&sams=1&mtf=1&sfp=1&sdp=1&hch=1&hwfh=1&dchat=1&sc=%7B%22pmo%22%3A%22https%3A%2F%2Fundp.sharepoint.com%22%2C%22pmshare%22%3Atrue%7D&ctp=LeastProtected&rct=Normal&wdorigin=AuthPrompt.Outlook-Body.Sharing.DirectLink.Copy&instantedit=1&wopicomplete=1&wdredirectionreason=Unified_SingleFlush#_ftnref2) <https://unsceb.org/data-standards-united-nations-system-wide-reporting-financial-data>

[3] https://unsdg.un.org/resources/undg-guidance-establishing-managing-and-closing-multi-donor-trust-funds

***Why it is important to establish financial benchmarks on gender equality in inter-agency pooled funds?***

***Answer:*** While tracking investments on gender equality using the GEM has helped to ensure integration of gender considerations in the projects funded by multi-partner trust funds, it has not necessarily led to increased investments in gender equality

The 2019 recommendations of the HLTF on financing for gender equality advocated for integrating gender equality as a criterion in the design, funding allocation strategies, monitoring and implementation of multi-partner trust funds, alongside establishing minimum financial targets for these mechanisms. Adopting financial targets aids in securing funding for gender equality. The effective implementation of the marker, in conjunction with financial targets for gender equality expenditure,

To implement minimum financial targets for gender quality, MPTFs may have several strategies available.

* One approach is setting a minimum percentage of funds for projects with a specific GEM score.
* Another strategy could involve creating specific funding windows dedicated to gender equality, ensuring a designated minimum percentage of the overall funds supports projects within these windows.

The recently adopted Secretary-General System-wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP) established 15% as the standard allocation for expenditures in the UN system dedicated to outputs/activities where gender equality is the principal objective (GEM 3) across all pillars by 2026. It also includes a commitment to establish a 40% target for gender equality programming and coordination for all new pooled funds.



1. Report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. According to the MoU/SAA. The final financial report is certified. It does not specify if the annual financial reports are certified. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)