

**First Meeting of the SAARC Gender Policy Advocacy Group (GPAG)  
Hotel Marriott, Islamabad  
26-27 July 2015**

**ANNOTATED AGENDA & PROGRAMME**

**A. Background:**

In 2005, Member States of SAARC undertook the establishment of the SAARC Gender Info Base (SGIB), a South Asian repository of qualitative and quantitative data and information on gender related issues and women empowerment, in partnership UN Women. In June 2011, at the Fifth SGIB Review Meeting, Member States proposed the setting up of a Gender Equality and Empowerment Programme (SAGEEP), moving from a project approach to a programmatic one, which can be used to implement all SAARC activities related to women. SAGEEP was approved by the Fifth Meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children (TC – WYC) in July 2011 and later endorsed at the Seventeenth SAARC Summit in Addu City in November 2011. The Addu Declaration called for the convening of an Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to discuss the establishment of a regional mechanism to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in the region.

The SAARC Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting (IGEGM) was organized by SAARC Secretariat in partnership with UN Women and Government of Maldives, on 11-12 March 2013 in Male'. The meeting resulted in the establishment of the SAARC Gender Policy Advocacy Group (SAARC-GPAG) as a regional mechanism to promote gender equality and empowerment of women within SAARC. The Terms of Reference for the SAARC-GPAG finalized in the Meeting was revised by the Sixth Meeting of the TC – WYC, and approved by the Fortieth Session of the Standing Committee (Male', 19 February 2014).

The inaugural meeting of the SAARC-GPAG is scheduled to be held from 26 - 27 July 2015, in Islamabad and will be held once a year, preceding the SAARC Technical Committee Meeting on Women, Youth and Children, as per the directive of the Member States of SAARC.

**B. Participants:**

1. Members of the GPAG (Representatives from Member States)
2. Officials of the SAARC Secretariat
3. Officials of UN Women
4. Officials of UNESCAP
5. Resource persons (if required for specific agenda items)

### C. Objectives:

1. Identify common issues and provide policy advice.
2. Advocate to keep gender high on the policy agenda of the SAARC Member States:
  - a. Enhance political and administrative will on Gender Equality;
  - b. Ensure implementation of commitments by Member States to empowerment of women and Gender Equality;
  - c. Monitor and document progress.

### D. Expected Outcomes:

1. Progress on gender equality and empowerment of women in Member States shared and recommendations to enhance gender equality outcomes discussed and endorsed.
2. Cross-regional learning facilitated in select key thematic areas.
3. Key priorities for GPAG identified for 2015-2018.
4. GPAG operationalized and mechanism set up to draft a three-year Action Plan and a Strategic Results Framework.

### E. ANNOTATED AGENDA & PROGRAMME

DATE / TIME	PROGRAMME
<b>Day One: Sunday, 26 July 2015</b>	
1000-1015 hrs	Registration & Tea/Coffee
1015-1115 hrs	Welcome and Inaugural Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Opening Remarks by ....., Government of Pakistan</li><li>- Opening Remarks by Representative of the Secretary General of SAARC</li><li>- Opening Remarks by Ms. Roberta Clarke, Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</li><li>- Opening Remarks by Mr. Nagesh Kumar, Head, UNESCAP, South and South-West Asia Office</li></ul>
1115 - 1145 hrs	<i>Tea break and Group photo</i>
1145 - 1200 hrs	<b>1. Opening of the Meeting</b>

	<b>2 &amp; 3. Election of the Chairperson and Adoption of the Agenda</b>
1200 - 1220 hrs	<b>4. Background and History of the GPAG</b>  <i>The Chair may invite Ms. Fathimath Najwa, Director, Social Affairs at the SAARC Secretariat to make a presentation.</i>
1220 - 1245 hrs	<b>5. Update on Country Level Progress on Gender Equality and Empowerment Initiatives – Presentations by Country Delegations</b>  <i>The Chair may invite representatives from the Member States to make a Presentation and update the Meeting on Country Level Progress on Gender Equality and Empowerment, in alphabetical order;</i>  <i>1. Afghanistan</i>
1255 - 1400 hrs	<b>Lunch</b>
1400 - 1530 hrs	<i>Presentations (continued):</i>  <i>2. Bangladesh</i> <i>3. Bhutan</i> <i>4. India</i> <i>5. Maldives</i>
1530 - 1545 hrs	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>
1545 - 1645 hrs	<i>Presentations (continued):</i>  <i>6. Nepal</i> <i>7. Pakistan</i> <i>8. Sri Lanka</i>
1715 - 1730 hrs	<i>(Closing of Day One)</i>  <i>The Chair may wrap up and announce the Meeting closed</i>
1930 - 2100 hrs	<b>Reception and Dinner</b>
<b>Day Two: Monday, 27 July 2015</b>	
1000 - 1100 hrs	<b>6. Consideration the matters relating to SAARC Gender Info Base (SGIB)</b>  <i>A Note by the Secretariat on the status of SGIB is placed as Document No. SAARC/GPAG.1/03 for consideration.</i>

	<i>The Meeting may discuss and decide on a way forward for the SGIB project, especially the Online Component of SGIB.</i>
1000 - 1100 hrs	<b>7. Presentation by GPAG partners, followed by discussion:</b> i) UN Women (on collaboration with SAARC, support to GPAG and priority areas of interest) ii) UN ESCAP (on collaboration with SAARC, support to GPAG and priority areas of interest)
1100 - 1120 hrs	<b>8. Key Priorities for GPAG for 2015-2018:</b> i) Identification of thematic issues of common interest  <i>The Chairperson may facilitate discussions among the Member States and the Meeting may identify thematic areas of common interest to the SAARC region, which will be taken up in the future work of the GPAG.</i>
1120 - 1135 hrs	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>
1135 - 1200 hrs	<i>Agenda item 8 (i) continued</i>
1200 - 1315 hrs	ii) Mechanism set-up for developing the GPAG Action Plan and Strategic Results Framework  <i>The Chairperson may facilitate discussions among the Member States and the Meeting may decide on the mechanism to develop the GPAG three-year Action Plan and the Strategic Results Framework, with timelines.</i>
1315 - 1415 hrs	<b>Lunch</b>
1415 - 1500 hrs	<i>Agenda item 8 (ii) continued</i>
1500 – 1515 hrs	<b>9. Any other matter</b> <i>The Meeting may discuss other relevant issues under this agenda item.</i>
1515 - 1530 hrs	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>
1530 - 1630 hrs	Closing Session  <i>The Report of the Meeting may be adopted.  The Chairperson may announce the Meeting closed.</i>

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