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United Nations
Division for the Advancement of Women
Expert Group Meeting on “Financing for gender equality
and the empowerment of women”
Oslo, Norway
4-7 September, 2007

AIDE-MEMOIRE

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I. Introduction

1. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for 2007-2009, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will consider “Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women” as its priority theme during its fifty-second session from 25 February to 7 March 2008. In order to contribute to a further understanding of the issue and to assist the Commission in its deliberations, the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) will convene an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on this topic in Oslo, Norway, from 4 to 7 September 2007.

2. The findings and recommendations of the experts will provide inputs for the report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme of

6. At its fiftieth session in 2006⁵, CSW encouraged the international community, the United Nations system, the relevant regional and international organizations and the private sector and civil society to provide the necessary financial resources to assist national Governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks agreed upon at the major United Nations summits and conferences and their follow-up processes. The Commission also called for mobilization of adequate funding for gender-sensitive development policies and programmes and for national mechanisms for gender equality, through national, regional and international resource mobilization and gender-responsive budget processes in all sector areas, and allocate adequate funding for women-specific measures.

7. The Monterrey Consensus⁶, adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002, highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to financing for development, including gender-sensitive development, and encouraged the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into development policies at

innovative sources of funding. The potentials and challenges of the different modalities and mechanisms, as well as the role of key actors involved, will be discussed.

11. *Public finance, including gender-responsive budgeting:* Resources remain insufficient to adequately support policies and programmes that promote gender equality and the advancement of women. A number of Governments have integrated gender perspectives into their national budgets in order to reflect the differentiated needs and priorities of women and men, but attention has mainly been given to the expenditure side of the budget, with limited focus on the revenue side. Challenges in implementing gender-responsive budgets include limited dialogue between Ministries of Finance, national machineries for the advancement of women and civil society groups, and lack of expertise and tools for monitoring and evaluating budgets from a gender perspective.

12. *Macroeconomic policies, particularly in relation to follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development:* Macroeconomic policies,

Expert papers prepared by experts on specific issues in line with their expertise;
Papers prepared by observers, which will be made available but not formally
presented at the EGM.

VI. Organization

20. The EGM will be organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and will be hosted by the Government of Norway in Oslo, Norway, from 4 to 7 September 2007.

21. The EGM will be conducted in English and all documentation will be in English.

22. The EGM will meet in plenary and in working groups. Presentations by the experts in plenary will create the framework for discussi