



Federal Government of Somalia
Ministry of women and human rights development



Role and Mandate of National Women's Mechanisms

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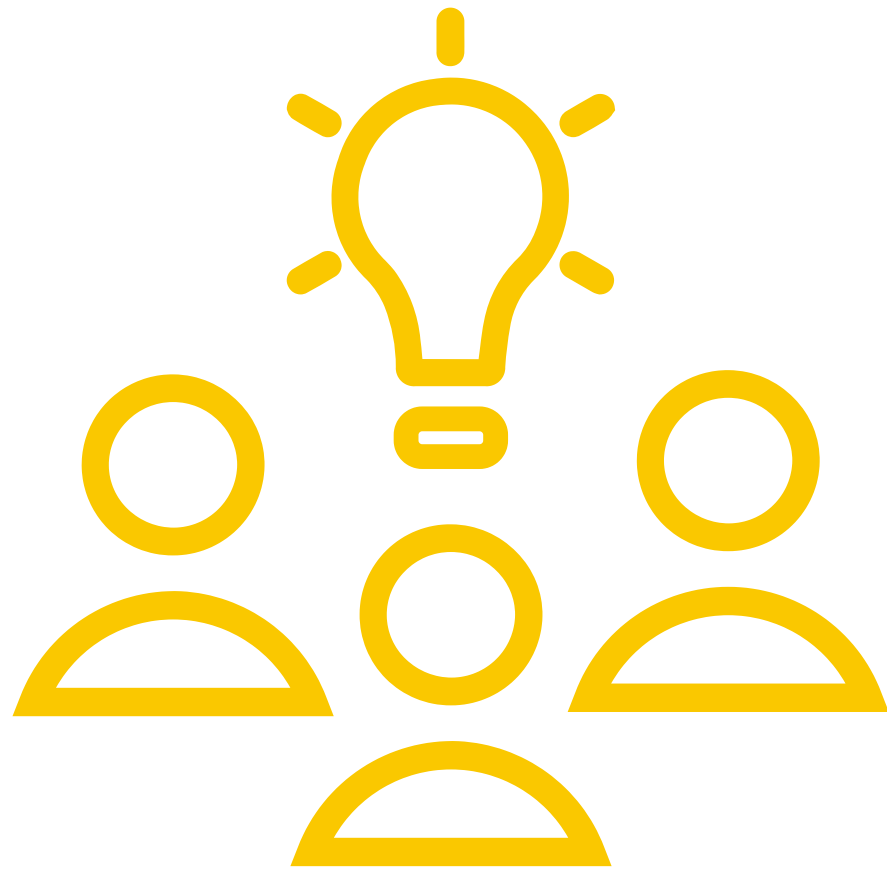
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Brainstorming Activity



What's the importance and functions of national institutions for the advancement of gender equality in Somalia?

PART I

National Machineries for the Advancement of Gender Equality



What's a National Women's Machinery?

- A formal government structure dedicated to promoting gender equality and/or improving women's status and rights.
- They take various forms from full-fledged ministries to semi-governmental institutions, interim councils.
- Decentralized mechanisms at the municipal and other local levels.
- Established by formal statute or executive decree.

History of National Women's Machineries

- The call for the establishment of national women's machineries to promote gender equality came about in the mid-1970s (1975-1985) during world conferences on women.
- The Beijing Platform of Action, which was adopted during the Fourth World Conference on Women, put the issue of institutional mechanisms in the forefront of the Agenda.
- A number of States had developed national machineries prior to these events. For example, in the United Kingdom, Liberia, Tunisia, Egypt, Vietnam, Philippines, and Jamaica.

National Women's Machineries in the Arab World

Semi-governmental
institutions/government
agency

Bahrain
Egypt
Jordan
Lebanon
Saudi Arabia
Yemen

Ministry that deals with
gender equality and other
issues

Kuwait
Mauritania
Morocco
Tunisia

Full-fledged ministry
specifically dedicated to
gender equality and women's
empowerment

Palestine
Somalia

Notable Accomplishments of NWM's

Tunisia

The promulgation of the Personal Status Code in 1956, which granted Tunisian women broader rights that were exceptional in the Arab region.

Bahrain

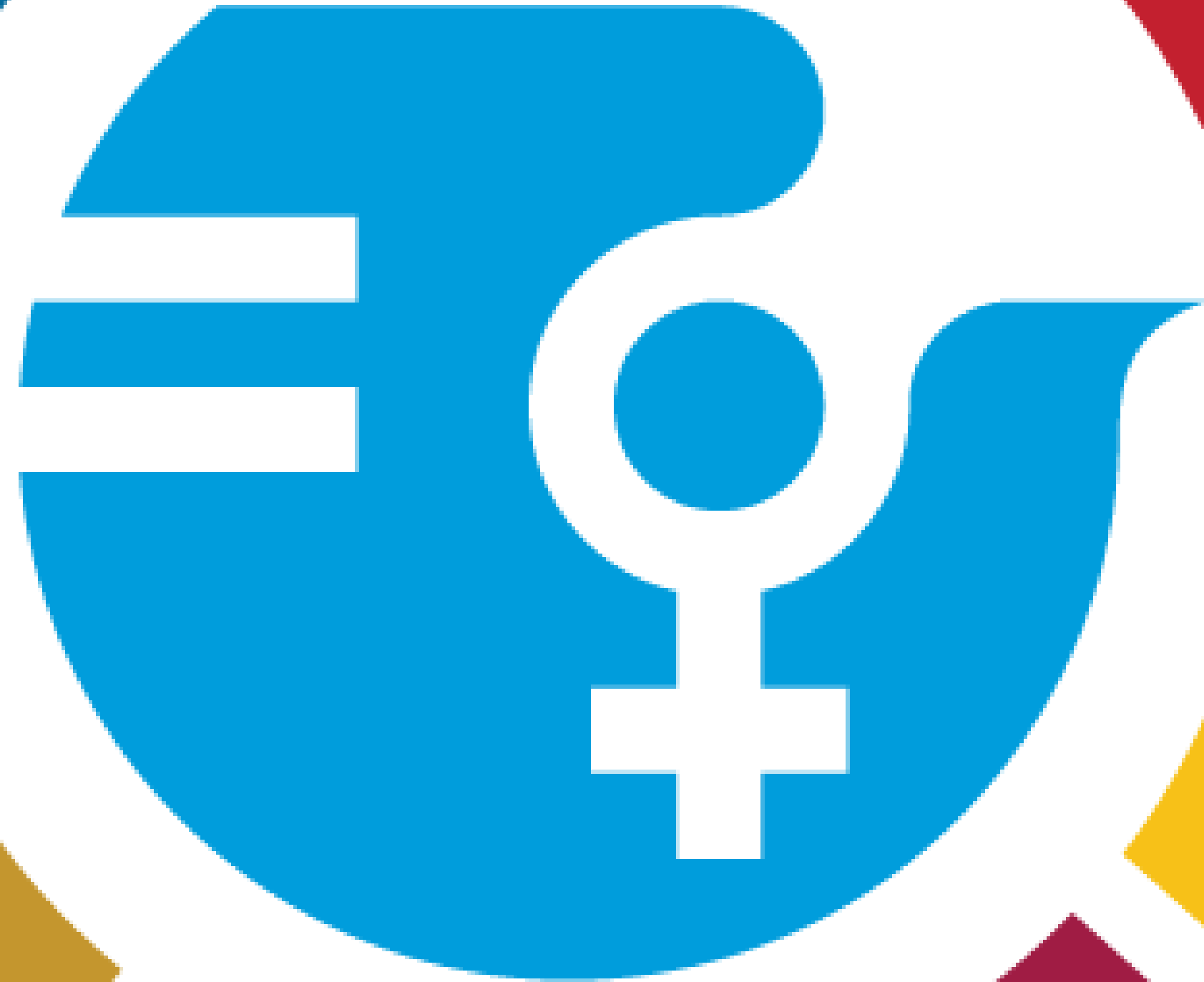
Monitors abuses related to equal opportunities for women and men in all areas and makes recommendations to remedy situation.

Palestine

A quota system was established, with 20 per cent of seats in the Legislative Council and at least two women in municipal and local councils allocated guaranteed seats to women on electoral lists.

PART II

Role, Mandate and Functions of NWMs



Mandate and Role of NWMs

- The Beijing Platform for Action recommends the establishment of "national machineries for the advancement of women", which serve as a central unit for policy coordination within government.
- **Mandate:** "to design, promote the implementation of, execute, monitor, evaluate, advocate and mobilize support for policies that promote the advancement of women" (para. 196).
- **Role:** support the mainstreaming of gender equality perspectives in all policy areas across the Government (para. 201).
- National machineries work as catalysts to mainstream gender across national institutions. **They are not an agency for policy implementation.**

Necessary Conditions for Effective Functioning

- a. Location at the highest possible level in the Government, falling under the responsibility of a Cabinet minister;
- b. Decentralised planning, implementation and monitoring involving non-governmental organisations and community organisations;
- c. Sufficient financial and human resources;
- d. Possibility of influencing development of all government policies

3 Strategic Objectives

- Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies.
- Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects.
- Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.

7 Essential Functions for Effective Mechanisms

1

Leverage Government's commitment to gender equality issues and integrate them into Government policies, plans and programmes across ministries.

2

Undertake legal and policy reforms to advance gender equality and promote the rights of women.

3

Promote women's participation in all decision-making processes.

7 Essential Functions for Effective Mechanisms

4

Monitor government performance of gender equality commitments.

5

Develop or generate sex-disaggregated data to analyse situation of women.

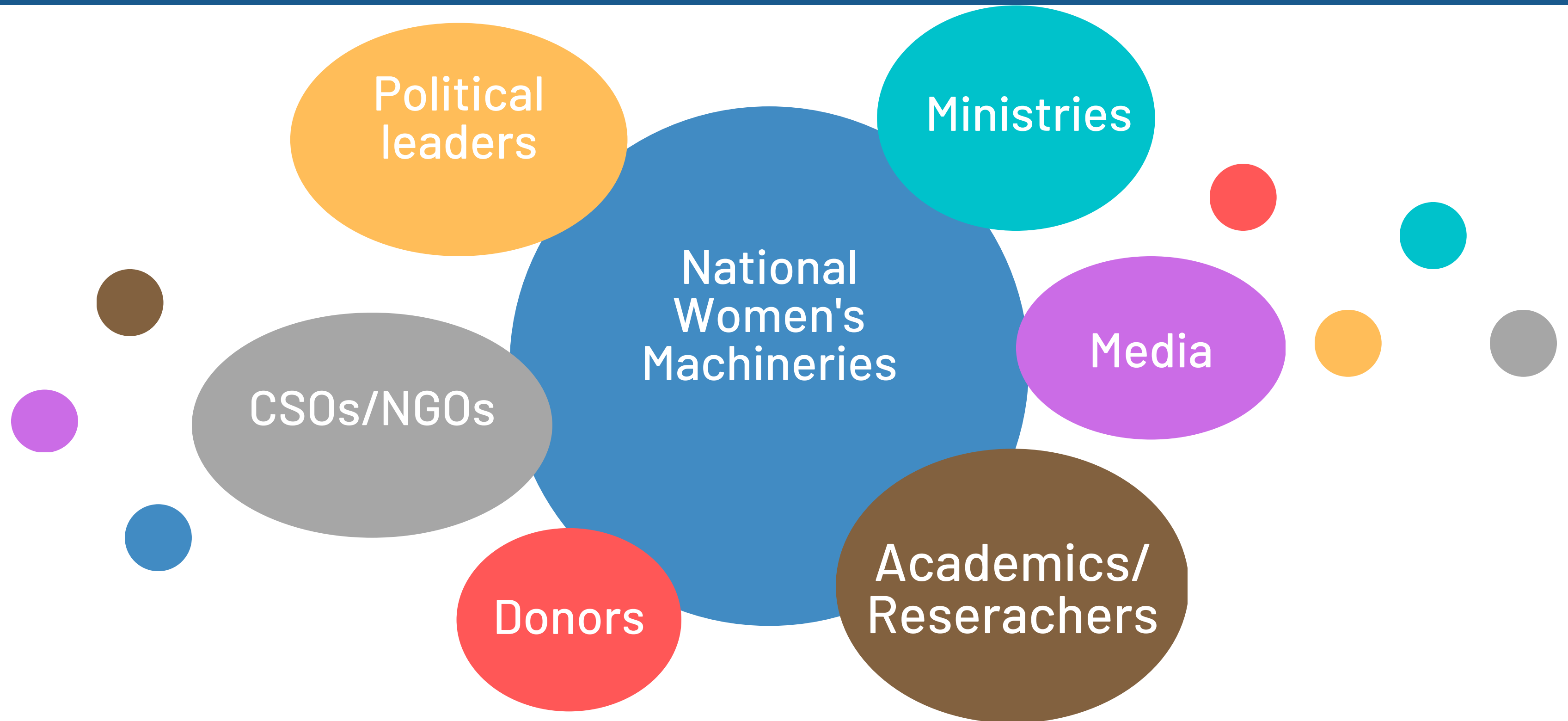
6

Conduct qualitative studies on women's social, political and economic situation.

7

Provide training and advisory services to government, parliament and other national institutions.

Relationship with other institutions



Gender Mainstreaming

The ECOSOC Agreed Conclusions 1997/2 provided a clear definition of the mainstreaming strategy as:

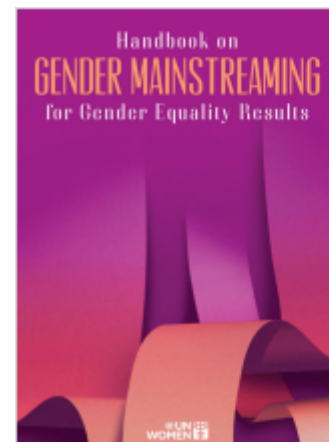
“...the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels.

It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.”

Gender Mainstreaming

Examples of actions which lead to a positive change in:

- Policies;
- Strategies / approach;
- Advocacy efforts;
- Legislation;
- Research and other analytical work;
- Statistics- greater sex disaggregation, improved gender analysis of data, or identifying gaps in the data base;
- Development of indicators and improved monitoring;
- Medium-term plans and budgets;
- Procedures and processes.



Handbook on gender mainstreaming for gender equality results - World

Manual and Guideline in English on World about Gender and Protection and Human Rights; published on 19 Feb 2022 by UN Women

 ReliefWeb



Best Practices for Gender Mainstreaming

- 1) Carry-out gender training for top-level government management
- 2) Encourage gender training at all levels of government
- 3) Developing methods and tools for gender mainstreaming such as gender impact assessments, gender analysis and the availability of sex-disaggregated data.
- 4) Develop guidelines for gender training, and for gender audit across all government activities
- 5) Collect and disseminate best practices models for gender mainstreaming
- 6) Coordinate the development and regular updating of national action plans to implement the Beijing Platform for Action and reporting on their implementation to parliament and international bodies

Best Practices from the Arab Region

- **Strengthening the relationship with non-governmental associations**
- **Development of public campaigns focusing on selected priority issues**
- **Organization of conferences to bring together researchers, policymakers and women's advocacy groups to facilitate the exchange of experiences and communication**
- **Cooperation with the media to raise public awareness on gender equality**

Best Practices from the Arab Region

- Informing civil society of international conventions on women and gender equality and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences
- Development and use of electronic media to disseminate information on the situation of women and to communicate with civil society organizations, with other gender units of government, and with national mechanisms in other countries
- Disseminating information about its work and raising citizens' awareness of the importance of the role of national mechanisms in promoting gender equality

Group Activity



1. What are some of the challenges facing the national machinery for gender equality in Somalia?
2. For each challenge, list two or three ideas to respond to the challenge?

Challenges of NWMs

- National mechanisms are marginalized within the Government, without any influence on the policy-making process.
- The Government's repeated restructuring disrupts the continuity of the work of national mechanisms, and national mechanisms in both developing and developed countries have been affected by economic and governmental restructuring.
- Most national machineries, both within and outside the Government, suffer from chronic resource shortages. While national machineries must have a regular source of funding from the government, they may also seek funding from other sources.

Challenges of NWMs

- **NWMs may have inadequate human resources: they have very few staff that have knowledge on gender issues.**
- **In some countries, the national machinery is merely an advisory body with a weak organizational structure and no budget.**

PART III

Role of NWMs During Crisis and Building Resilience



Cultivating Resilient Institutions in the Arab Region
National Women's Machineries in Challenging Times



Shared Prosperity Digitalized Life



LAU
Lebanese American University

AIW
THE ARAB
INSTITUTE
FOR WOMEN



Building Resilience in Times of Crises

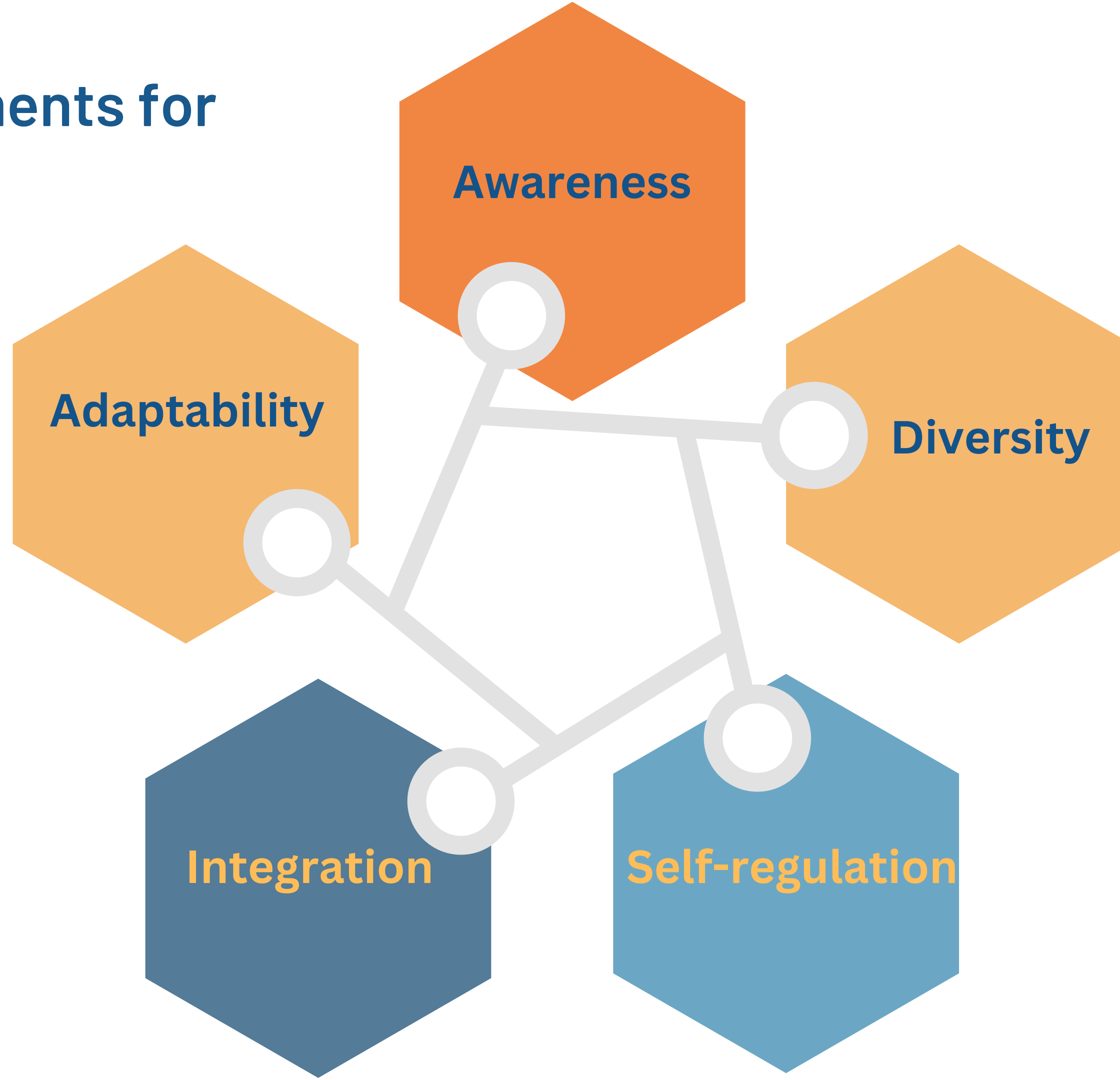


Cultivating Resilient Institutions in the Arab Region
National Women's Machineryes in Challenging Times



- The concept of "resilience" has emerged as a critical approach to enhancing understanding of the system's ability to adapt to external pressures and challenges.
- "To be resilient is to be conscious, adaptable, diverse and self-regulated; all these characteristics exist differently and in different degrees and manifestations in all flexible entities "
(Judith Ruden-Psychologist)

Five Necessary Elements for Resilience





Awareness

Situational awareness is a fundamental aspect of resilience and requires organizations to develop systems to assess strengths, assets, liabilities, vulnerabilities, threats and risks.



The entity has different sources of capacity so it can successfully operate even when elements of that capacity are challenged.

The institution possesses or can draw upon a range of capabilities, ideas, information sources, technical elements, people or groups.



Integration ensures that the elements of the system are well coordinated, not only within the institution, but with other entities working in the context, particularly women's rights activists and civil society organizations.

Besides diversity, integration seeks to ensure the use of diverse actors. While diversity may bring diverse ideas/options/alternatives, integration means proactively engaging with different actors to analyze and explain these variables and introduce new business mechanisms and solutions.



Self-regulation

Crises are more easily managed when the organization is self-regulated. Self-regulation means that an institutions is able to prevent one disruption from having a multiplier effect. This ensures that there is no institutional or other breakdown in adversity and crisis.

The best example of self-regulation is the development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of the work, and the possibility of accurately recording successes and failures to develop the lessons taken.



Adaptability

- The ability to respond effectively and flexibly according to changing circumstances.
- Being adaptive means making improvements and transformations to counter any disturbance or instability;
- It also means being able to change before the disorder occurs, or avoiding or mitigating the disorder's impact.

ESCWA Portal for NWM's in the Arab Region

- New platform dedicated to national gender machineries in the Arab region.
- Allows machineries to access country specific data and information, compare laws, policies, national strategies, and action plans on various topics with other countries.
- Directory of machineries in the region
- Laws, policies, strategies and action plans
- CEDAW, CRC, UPR and other reports related to gender equality
- Calendar of events and upcoming UN treaty committee reviews
- Training materials and courses
- Link to ISPAR portal (WPS Index, Global Gender Gap Index, etc.)



Thank you for your participation!