



TERMS OF REFERENCE ARTF Gender Working Group

Updated July 2020

Background: In response to an ARTF Steering Committee decision, it was agreed to establish a Gender Working Group (GWG) as a technical platform to discuss important gender related issues which will leverage the Strategy Group (SG) and the Steering Committee (SC) to translate its proposal into policies and actions, when necessary. Recognizing that other gender working groups exist in Afghanistan, the ARTF GWG will focus its discussions on issues relevant to the ARTF portfolio.

The GWG is chaired by the World Bank as ARTF Administrator, with a semi-annually rotating co-chair from one of the ARTF donors. The GWG will consist of interested donors with necessary gender expertise, and technical capacity on the ground in Kabul to participate in and provide input to ongoing discussions. It will draw on the knowledge and expertise of donors to strengthen the ARTF's gender focus. The GWG will aim to make conclusions on a no-objection basis. The GWG meets in Kabul at the technical level on the first Tuesday of every month. The meeting invitation, agenda and any necessary papers will be circulated a week before the meeting. Meeting minutes will be drafted by the Administrator and shared with GWG members within a week after each meeting.

The GWG will provide a brief report on its work to the SG. This will become a standing agenda item for the monthly Strategy Group meeting. The GWG will agree on the issues to be reported to the SG by the ARTF Administrator. On exception, a detailed point of discussion can be raised at the Strategy Group on a matter of particular importance.

The ARTF Results Management Framework identifies gender as a *special theme*, which will be subject to more detailed and disaggregated reporting on performance. The new World Bank Group (WBG) Gender Strategy emphasizes the importance of defining the gender gaps that the WBG's Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) focus on, the approaches to address and track them in the analytical and operational portfolio, as well as clear result-chains on gender equality at the project and strategic level.

Scope of Work: The GWG will: (i) discuss the gender focus of the ARTF Partnership Framework and Financing Program (formerly known as ARTF Financing Strategy), Incentive Program, and Investment window Projects; (ii) review gender aspects of ARTF-financed activities at both design and implementation stage, with donors invited to review draft project documents and provide gender inputs and analysis at an early stage; (iii) share knowledge and expertise on innovations in gender as they relate to the ARTF; (iv) propose recommendations on how gender aspects can be better captured in the ARTF Results Management Framework; and (v) provide support for gender mainstreaming in ARTF portfolio management, pipeline development and analytic studies.



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Roles and Responsibilities:

The Administrator:

- The GWG will be chaired by the World Bank as the ARTF Administrator;
- The Administrator's gender team will take the lead on developing the meeting agendas, provide the necessary input for the GWG discussions including providing meeting papers, drafting meeting minutes, and generally lead the interactions with the GWG.
- The Administrator will brief the GWG on gender aspects and design of portfolio and pipeline projects – including by harnessing relevant gender technical expertise from across the organization.

Donors:

- One ARTF donor representative will serve as co-chair of the GWG, on a semi-annual rotating basis. The co-chair will be nominated by the GWG on a consensus basis. The co-chair will support the Administrator to frame the monthly agenda, review and provide inputs to draft meeting minutes. link discussions at the GWG level to the Strategy Group, and support ARTF donor engagement to ensure a high degree of buy-in to the GWG;
- The GWG consists of representatives nominated by each interested Strategy Group member. To allow for continuity in technical discussions at the working level, GWG members will aim at consistent participation of nominated representatives.
- To rationalize the coordination with the World Bank technical teams and minimize transactions costs, the GWG members will make the most of existing coordination platforms such as the regular technical team meetings/discussions between the Bank and their respective agencies, and World Bank mission meetings/donor briefing sessions.
- Donors will periodically provide the GWG with updates and information on any of their bilateral gender equality investments of relevance to the ARTF and its activities.

Government:

- A representative from the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), Ministry of Finance (MOF), and the Ministry of Labour's women's economic empowerment national priority program (WEE-NPP) Coordination Unit, and as needed other government agencies will represent the Government at the GWG.
- The Government will present achievements and progress on various gender initiatives to ensure better cohesiveness and coordination with the ARTF GWG and activities.

Other:

- The GWG may, on occasion, invite other relevant participants (e.g. UN Women) to attend its meetings when there are agenda items that warrant a broader-than-ARTF discussion.