

## Annex 1:

### **Supporting Documentation for the General Assembly Vote on Internal Resolution 2 to be held 1-3 June 2022**

#### **Background**

- By 2021, the COVID -19 Pandemic had disrupted economies around the world and had eroded twenty years of progress in women’s and girls’ rights to education.
- The United Nations (UN), in recognition of the importance of women’s and girls’ education to sustainable development, issued an urgent call to action to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4): “Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All”.
- The GWI Board believed that it was its mission-driven obligation to answer the UN’s call to action.
- Furthermore, the GWI Board recognized that graduate women, given their educational advantage, skills and competencies, must play an important role in the accomplishment of SDG 4.
- However, the GWI Board also believed that in order for its members to make *a measurable impact*, GWI Headquarters and NFAs would have to come together to work with UN agencies and national programs to build capacity where needed to expand the implementation of SDG 4. And, the GWI Board believed that global funders would fund this capacity-building work.

#### **A Preliminary Examination of GWI’s Intention to work with UN Agencies and National Programs in the expansion of SDG 4, in its NFA countries.**

From July 2021 through March 31, 2022, GWI Headquarters has carried out the following work:

1. GWI Headquarters held two (2) Town Hall meetings with its NFAs to share its two goals:
  - a) To explore the opportunities available to graduate women to build capacity into UN and national programs in the implementation of SDG 4 and,
  - b) To seek funding for GWI Headquarters and its NFAs to finance this capacity-building work.

*An informal poll taken at these Town Hall meetings indicated that the NFAs present thought this would be a worthwhile pursuit.*



2. The GWI Board and Executive Director, facilitated by the organization's Immediate Past President, Geeta Desai, designed an Organizational Development (OD) Process that would lead to the accomplishment of these two goals. Based on professional experiences and in-depth GWI institutional knowledge, the Immediate Past President was asked to facilitate this process. **A summary of the four-phased OD Process can be found [here](#).**
3. The GWI Board requested the NFA leadership to designate representatives for their respective NFAs to serve on the OD Steering Committee. There are a total of fifty-two (52) Steering Committee members who represent thirty-seven (37) NFAs. **Steering Committee Members are listed [here](#).**
4. During Phase I, Steering Committee members and the facilitator researched the outstanding capacity needs of UN and national SDG 4 programs in their respective countries. **The comprehensive research and analysis from thirty-seven countries can be found in the *Research on Implementation of SDG 4 in Participating NFA Countries* section of the *GWI General Assembly Vote 2022* webpage found [here](#).** (You will need to access the GWI Member Corner section of the website.)

Briefly, the analysis showed that UN agencies and national SDG 4 programs needed additional help in the following six areas:

- Building awareness about the SDGs.
  - Outreaching to hard-to-reach populations to help them access important information on their rights and available services.
  - Conducting community dialogue to disseminate information and to encourage participation in the implementation of the SDGs.
  - Conducting trainings and workshops so that community organizations can embed the SDG framework in their services.
  - Citizen participation in the development of policies or the updating of multi-sectoral education policies to lead to inclusion, equality, and quality education.
  - Citizen participation in data collection.
5. During Phase II, Steering Committee members and the facilitator held in-depth discussions about the state of readiness of GWI headquarters and its NFAs to:
    - Work together (with each other and External Stakeholders)
    - Become accountable to UN agencies, global funders, and decision-makers. (External Stakeholders)
  6. Discussion Notes from all these meetings can be found in **the *Organisational Readiness Assessment Steering Committee Discussions* section of the *GWI General***

**Assembly Vote 2022 section of the webpage [here](#).** (You will need to access the GWI Member Corner section of the website.)

### **Conclusions drawn from Phases I and II**

Phase I concluded that there are important opportunities for graduate women to provide help to UN agencies and national programs in the expansion of SDG 4 in NFA countries.

Phase II discussions concluded that, in the aftermath of the Pandemic, there is a need for the GWI Board and its NFAs to strengthen their support of each other.

*In anticipation of building working relationships with External Stakeholders, GWI Headquarters and NFAs should first **work together** to:*

- 1) Create a culture for the expansion of SDG 4. Such a culture would include shared values and goals, continuous learning, outcomes -based work and strategies, cultural sensitivity, accountability, trust, and mutual respect within NFAs and GWI Headquarters.
- 2) Increase membership in NFAs including the membership of younger members.
- 3) Increase member retention through engagement and meaningful member experience within NFAs and at the international level.
- 4) Increase knowledge within NFAs about organizational management practices that result in growth and stability.
- 5) Build and disseminate a better understanding of the importance of belonging to a national and international organization and of the need for global engagement in the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 4.
- 6) Increase understanding of the value of GWI Headquarters' work on behalf of its NFAs and members.
- 7) Build a closer relationship by creating effective systems of contact, communication, information-sharing, and discussions between and among GWI Headquarters, NFA leadership and NFA members that encourages participation by all.
- 8) Provide global leadership development for members through training in global competence and mentorship from GWI Headquarters and NFA leaders.
- 9) Increase the number of younger members serving on GWI NFA, Committee, and Board and other leadership positions.
- 10) Develop a multi-media promotion of GWI and its members and their past work in order to highlight members' skills and competencies and their eminent qualification to help build capacity into SDG 4 and to serve in global decision-making leadership positions.

The GWI Board acknowledges that the above-mentioned organizational renewal activities are of paramount importance and is committed to starting this work as soon as possible. *However, the GWI Board also recognizes that organizational renewal is only possible through a whole – hearted reciprocal commitment on the part of its NFAs.*



Therefore, at this time the GWI Board requests that its NFAs discuss this matter thoroughly prior to a General Assembly electronic vote 1-3 June 2022 on whether to move forward on organizational renewal work outlined above.

Voting “yes” to moving forward means that NFAs are willing to commit to a working relationship of timely cooperation and collaboration with GWI Headquarters.

*Please note in the Overview Letter that two informational sessions will be held on 11 May 2022; one at 06:00 AM and the other at 18:00 (6:00 PM) CEST. These sessions are being held so you can ask questions about this electronic vote. Please see the Overview Letter for the Zoom registration links to participate in either or both of these sessions that will be facilitated by the GWI Board of Officers.*

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