



Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

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Report on the field visit of the UN-Women

Executive Board to the Plurinational State of Bolivia 2026

I. Introduction

1. A delegation from the UN-Women Executive Board conducted a field visit to the Plurinational State of Bolivia from 24 to 31 March 2026, in accordance with Executive Board decision 2017/8. The delegation was led by H.E. Mr. Godfrey Kwoba, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations, on behalf of the President of the UN-Women Executive Board. The delegation also comprised: H.E. Ms. Aida Kasymalieva, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations, Vice-President of the Executive Board; Mr. Filip De Maesschalck, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations, on behalf of the Vice-President of the Executive Board representing the Group of Western Europe and Other States; H.E. Ms. Alejandra Hernandez, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, on behalf of the Group of Latin America and Caribbean States; and Ms. Celia Nabeta, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations. This visit followed the Executive Board's previous mission to Zimbabwe in May 2025.
2. The purpose of the visit was to provide the Executive Board with a better understanding of the impact of the UN-Women Country Office's work and how it leverages the triple mandate. The visit was also aimed at enhancing the Executive Board's understanding of inter-agency collaboration

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within the United Nations system, reviewing the implementation of United Nations reform initiatives including the UN80 initiative, and identifying best practices in United Nations programming in supporting national priorities and needs in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. This included examining joint programming and coordination efforts, as well as UN-Women's role within the United Nations country team.

II. Programme of the visit

3. During the field visit, Executive Board members visited the cities of La Paz, Sucre and Santa Cruz to assess the activities of UN-Women in supporting the implementation of the national development priorities of the Bolivian Government. The delegation toured UN-Women projects focused on ending violence against women in Okinawa and promoting women's economic empowerment in rural Santa Cruz. These visits highlighted tangible outcomes and direct benefits for women. The full programme is attached in the annex.
4. The Executive Board held high-level meetings with national authorities, including the President of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, the Attorney General and the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Gastronomy, Productive Development and the Plural Economy. These meetings allowed for an exchange of views on challenges and opportunities for advancing the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda in the Plurinational State of Bolivia.
5. The delegation met with H.E. Cinthya Martha Yariez Eid, Minister of Sustainable Tourism, Culture, Folklore and Gastronomy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The Minister represented H.E. President Rodrigo Paz Perreirra, who was unable to meet the team.
6. H.E. Ms. Jéssica Echeverría, Vice-Minister of Equal Opportunities, a leading authority in advancing policies for women's empowerment in the country, met the delegation. The discussion focused on collaboration, strategic priorities, and scaling effective policies and programmes.
7. The delegation also met with H.E. David Guachalla, Vice-Minister for Planning and Coordination.
8. During the visit, the Executive Board met with members of the diplomatic corps to discuss important priorities and efforts to promote gender equality in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. They also met with the United Nations country team, led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Anna Marttinen-Pont. In addition, the delegation reviewed ongoing United Nations reform efforts, including the UN80 initiative, together with the country team.
9. The delegation engaged in broad dialogue with the Ombudsman, as well as with autonomous institutions such as the Agency for Electronic Government and Information and Communication Technologies (AGETIC), and the Plurinational Service for Women and Depatriarchalization (SEPMUD), with whom UN-Women has collaborated closely for several years, fostering ongoing partnerships to advance gender equality and women's rights.

10. Meetings with 17 civil society groups, religious leaders, community promoters and local authorities gave the Executive Board useful perspectives on the Plurinational State of Bolivia, highlighting rural care innovations, strategies involving men and religious leaders, digital violence challenges, and women's economic empowerment for peace and cohesion.
11. The Executive Board held meetings with Indigenous government officials and private sector representatives, further broadening the dialogue to include essential stakeholders for inclusive and sustainable development. These sessions allowed for the identification of opportunities for collaboration to promote women's economic autonomy and strengthen their participation in various fields.
12. The visit concluded with a meeting with H.E. Mr. Fernando Aramayo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, who expressed appreciation for the strategic support of UN-Women Bolivia and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to continuing efforts to advance gender equality in the country. The Executive Board expressed its unwavering support for ongoing advances that foster a more equitable and inclusive society for all women and girls.

III. UN-Women's work to leverage its triple mandate

13. UN-Women has been operational in the Plurinational State of Bolivia since 2010, supporting national efforts to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In 2024, the Plurinational State of Bolivia also became the Regional Hub for Gender, Environment and Climate Justice for Latin America and the Caribbean, reflecting the Country Office's leadership in gender-responsive climate action and its capacity to generate tools, policy advocacy and South-South learning for the region. Guided by its Strategic Note 2023–2027, UN-Women Bolivia contributes directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Bolivia 2023–2027, maintaining implementation presence in all 9 departments, 94 municipalities (out of 341) and 5 (out of 9) Indigenous Native Peasant Autonomies, ensuring outreach to diverse territories and communities.

UN-Women's normative role

14. The Bolivian State has made significant progress in promoting gender equality and consolidating representative, parity and community democracy, as well as in combating violence against women in the political sphere. This has resulted in the formulation and implementation of norms, policy documents and institutional tools with a gender perspective, developed and applied in key State institutions. Among these, the Indigenous Native Peasants Governments stand out, playing a crucial role in the deepening of community democracy and in guaranteeing the full exercise of women's political and collective rights. These initiatives not only promote the equal participation of women in decision-making spaces but also strengthen public management that transversely integrates the intercultural character of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. This approach recognizes and values the country's cultural diversity, addressing the intersections of gender, ethnicity and collective

rights to ensure that public policies are inclusive and representative of all sectors of the population, both domestically and abroad.

15. Technical assistance provided by UN-Women has prompted reflection and facilitated the development of norms that respond to the specific needs and demands of women, recognizing their fundamental contributions in building more equitable societies. Particularly, norms developed together with the Indigenous Native Peasants Governments have proved to be models of social innovation, by prioritizing gender equality from legal pluralism and the implementation of affirmative actions that seek to correct historical and structural inequalities. These advances have strengthened intercultural democratic governance, where women not only occupy leading roles in political and social life, but also influence the formulation and execution of policies that reflect community values and principles, promoting a transformation towards inclusive and sustainable development.

UN-Women's operational activities

16. UN-Women advances women's economic autonomy through support to entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, decent work and gender-responsive private-sector practices. A priority area is the recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work, accompanied by alliances with private financial institutions, municipal governments and national authorities. UN-Women also promotes women's leadership in climate resilience and supports the development and implementation of gender-responsive climate change policies and frameworks.
17. UN-Women works across private, public and digital spaces, combining prevention, protection, quality service delivery and policy advocacy, with a strong focus on reaching the most marginalized women and girls. UN-Women supports the strengthening of laws and policies, referral pathways and specialized services to address all forms of gender-based violence. UN-Women works with justice institutions, law enforcement, oversight bodies and local governments to improve coordinated responses, while leading advocacy strategies to transform harmful social norms and increase access to comprehensive gender-based violence services.

UN-Women's coordinating role

18. The coordination role of UN-Women has generated a comparative advantage at the national level because, hand-in-hand with this mandate, the country team has developed capacities for a timely and well-argued response to the demands of the United Nations system in the Plurinational State of Bolivia on gender issues. As a result, the Country Office has led processes of knowledge, evaluation and co-creation of solutions; examples are the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP); the elaboration of the CGEP (Country Gender Equality Profile); the leadership of the End Violence Against Women (EVAW) results group; the inclusion of the fight against violence as a UNSDCF outcome and in the elaboration of a National Strategy to Combat Violence that includes government agencies and institutions; the leadership of the Inter-agency Gender Thematic Group (created with the current

UNSDCF); leadership of the inter-agency elaboration of the transmedia strategy for EVAW, and the EVAW strategy for the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Discussion on UN80 and potential merger

19. The delegation also met different stakeholders to discuss the UN80 Initiative and a possible merger of UN-Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) during the visit. On 30 March, the UN80 Initiative workforce published the *Preliminary Findings from the Strategic Merger Assessment of UNFPA and UN-Women*. The delegation was able to discuss and review this against the observations made during the visit.
20. The proposed merger introduces substantial uncertainty across multiple dimensions, including financing models, mandate integrity, programme continuity, staff implications and governance arrangements. At present, these questions outweigh the clarity provided by the preliminary findings.
21. Critical aspects remain undefined, including the form of merger, the operational model, the division of roles between UN-Women and UNFPA, and the sequencing of actions. The absence of a clear road map undermines informed decision-making by governing bodies.
22. Once the assessment report is issued, there is a risk that elements explicitly requested by Executive Board decisions may not be sufficiently addressed unless governing bodies actively press the United Nations system and relevant steering mechanisms to provide further information and clarification.
23. Under the current geopolitical circumstances, reopening discussions around established global consensus frameworks – such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action – risks weakening existing commitments. A similar risk applies to renewed debates on the mandates of UN-Women and UNFPA.
24. Differences between both entities related to normative functions, Women, Peace and Security (WPS) mandates, and political engagement, in contrast with more programme-centric concerns, present unresolved challenges in any merger scenario.
25. Both entities are linked to other governing bodies and processes, including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Security Council and different Executive Boards. Any structural change would therefore have system-wide implications that extend beyond the two entities themselves.
26. The delegation observed during the visit that UN-Women is uniquely positioned and effectively equipped to participate in political discussions concerning laws, policies and standards linked to gender equality.

IV. Key findings and recommendations

27. The UN-Women Bolivia Country Office's networks span a wide spectrum, from high-level political actors and international community partners to grass-roots organizations and civil society actors at country level. This breadth enables UN-Women to play a bridging role between global normative frameworks and local implementation realities, as well as promoting dialogue for gender equality.
28. The UN-Women Bolivia Country Office has proved to be a valuable source of institutional memory and has managed to engage strategically with a relatively newly elected Government to ensure that gender equality and the empowerment of women are addressed and translated into measurable indicators throughout the Government's social and economic development agenda.
29. The presence of the UN-Women Bolivia Country Office is widely recognized and appreciated by beneficiaries and stakeholders. Its engagement is perceived as legitimate, accessible and responsive, reinforcing trust and the relevance of UN-Women's work across diverse contexts, including the needs of Indigenous groups and cultures.
30. The UN-Women Bolivia Country Office has demonstrated strong capacity to exercise its system-wide coordination mandate, particularly in advancing coherence on gender equality and women's empowerment across United Nations entities. This coordination role is more readily operationalized in policy dialogue, normative follow-up and political engagement than through purely programmatic mechanisms.
31. The UN-Women Bolivia Country Office's collaboration with civil society organizations is vigorous, inclusive and impactful. Civil society actors are meaningfully engaged in advocacy, accountability and programme delivery, contributing to the legitimacy and effectiveness of UN-Women's mandate.
32. UN-Women's normative, coordination and operational mandates – particularly on gender equality, women's rights and WPS – remain distinct within the United Nations system.

V. Statement of appreciation

33. The delegation expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for their warm hospitality and for facilitating meaningful engagements, including with high-level dignitaries. Appreciation is also extended to the UN-Women Country Office in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Executive Board Secretariat in New York for their thorough preparations and support in ensuring a successful visit. The delegation further acknowledges the valuable contribution of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, participating United Nations agencies and other partners who generously shared their time and insights throughout the mission.

VI. Conclusion

34. The field visit revealed UN-Women's effective delivery of its triple mandate in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, with broad stakeholder collaboration to promote gender equality. The delegation also gathered evidence-based insights for engaging with the UN80 Initiative and future United Nations reform efforts.

Annex A: List of participants

<i>Region/Agency</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>
Africa	H.E. Mr. Godfrey Kwoba	Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations
Asia-Pacific	H.E. Ms. Aida Kasymalieva	Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations
Latin America and the Caribbean	H.E. Ms. Alejandra Hernandez Gonzalez	Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations
Western Europe and Other States	Mr. Filip De Maesschalck	Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations	Ms. Celia Nabeta	Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations
UN-Women	Mr. Jean-Luc Bories	Secretary of the Executive Board
UN-Women	Ms. Bibiana Aido Almagro	Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean
UN-Women	Mr. Cong Zhang	Programme Analyst, Executive Board Secretariat

Annex B: Full programme of the field visit

Time	Activities
Wednesday, 25 March	
Morning	Meeting with the Minister of Sustainable Tourism, Cultures, Folklore and Gastronomy
Noon	Meeting with the Vice-Minister of Public Investment and External Financing
Afternoon	1. Visit to MUSEF: cultural encounter with women artists
	2. Meeting with the President and Chamber of Deputies, Plurinational Legislative Assembly
Evening	Meeting with the Resident Coordinator

Thursday, 26 March	
Morning	1. Breakfast meeting with members of the diplomatic corps
	2. Meeting with United Nations country team
	3. Meeting at the UN-Women office in Bolivia
Noon	Meeting with the Vice-Minister of Equal Opportunities
Afternoon	1. Meeting with the Office of the Ombudsman
	2. Meeting with decentralized public institutions
	3. Meeting with civil society organizations
Evening	Travel to Sucre
Friday, 27 March	
Morning	1. Meeting with the Agro-Environmental Court of Bolivia
	2. EVAW projects: meeting with municipal mayors
Noon	Meeting with the Office of the Attorney General of the State
Afternoon	Travel to Santa Cruz
Saturday, 28 March	
Entire day	EVAW projects: visit to Okinawa municipality, including six hours of round-trip road travel
Sunday, 29 March	
	Brief meeting on field visit report drafting
Monday, 30 March	
Morning	Women's economic empowerment: meetings and interactions with beneficiaries from women-led productive units supported by KOICA project
Noon	Meeting with Indigenous Autonomous Government Authorities
Afternoon	Meeting with private-sector representatives
Evening	Debriefing of the visit with UN-Women and the Resident Coordinator