

The joint proposal from UN Women and UNFPA (“Joint Proposal For Enhanced Alignment, etc”) offers opportunity to increase alignment with cost-saving opportunities without introducing a cost-creating delay that would be incurred by a formal structural merger of such large proportion. This is a suggestion that is somewhat supported.

The proposal results in each agency being more streamlined while retaining greater flexibility to adapt to country-level changes.

Merging smaller entities makes sense, but not merging two large entities that, based on the evidence of the UN study, are already complementary rather than in competition. A merger would mean significant investment in both time and expense.

A merger dilutes the message re importance of gender equality. FPA has a mandate independent of gender, yet strengthens the impact of GEEW (UN) system-wide. Every SDG includes at least one success indicator specifically aimed at gender, underlining the cross-cutting nature of GEEW (similar to inclusion).

While inclusion acknowledges the need to have measures in place for those at risk, GEEW acknowledges the fact that women are not various minorities with a lack of representation - women are fully one-half of the world population.

Rather than decreasing the number of entities with GEEW as a major focus, we should be increasing them. GEEW should be mainstreamed, but with UN Women as the oversight entity.