

## PROGRAMME FOCUS 2007–2011

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### **Purpose of this FAQ document:**

The new SI Programme Focus leaflet is now available through federations and is available for download from the SI website. Following is an initial list of questions we anticipate and questions that have already been asked about implementing this new document at all different levels of the organisation.

At the end of this document is a simple suggested Guideline for use with Soroptimist audiences.

***This is a 'work in progress' so all questions, issues and successes are welcomed!  
Please contact YOUR Federation Programme Director/Liaison and/or the  
SI Programme leaders listed below***

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### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **1. What is the purpose of having a Programme Focus for 2007- 2011?**

The Programme Focus informs the SI members about the focus and direction of the programme/service activities that the SI leaders and Programme Voting Delegates (PVDs) have chosen to pursue for the next four years. This document briefly features the Vision, the Mission, the Goals and the Objectives that Soroptimists worldwide are asked to work toward for the quadrennium. (See the suggested presentation Guideline for presenting the Programme Focus to members which is at the end of this document)

**2. How did this Programme Focus get developed?**

The Programme Focus was developed through a two step process. Prior to the SI Board Meeting, federation regions, unions and elected leaders developed ideas and proposed suggestions of issues that created the framework of discussion at the SI Board Meeting. Every four years the Programme Voting Delegates from every region, union and federation attend the International Board Meeting to develop the Programme Focus. Delegates review, debate, vote and finally determine the Focus.

**3. Who should get this Programme Focus Leaflet?**

The information contained in this leaflet is intended for all members of Soroptimist International Clubs: it will be on the Soroptimist website and available through federation offices. It will be published in English and as members translate it for wider use Soroptimist International would love to share these versions on the website as well.

**4. What should members and clubs do with this information?**

It is suggested that members and clubs review this information and determine their programme work of awareness, advocacy and action within the 10 areas listed in the Programme Focus Objectives 2007-2011. Additionally, clubs and members will receive some ideas of federation strategies toward the objectives from their federations.

**5. What happened to the six Programme Areas? (Economic and Social Development, Education, Environment, Health, Human Rights and Status of Women and International Goodwill and Understanding)**

This list of objectives embraces all of the six programme areas but is no longer listed by these categories. Programme Voting Delegates wanted the objectives to be as clear and broad for each topic as they could be and not 'limited' by the title or category as they were before. These objectives are action focused and often contain the possibility of selecting more than one category, depending on the work that has been chosen by the clubs.

**6. Why are the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) listed on the leaflet?**

Since the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000, Soroptimists globally have been working through a huge variety of projects to progress all the Millennium Development Goals. Now the SI Strategic Planning process, recently approved by the SI Board in Glasgow, has pinpointed MDG 3 as the strongest reflection of the aims of our organisation, and it will consequently be a constant focus to guide us as we work to achieve the Programme Focus goals.

**7. Does every club have to work towards every objective?**

No, clubs are not expected to work toward every objective. They are expected to be aware that these topics exist and continue to choose programme/service work that is relevant and important to them locally and globally.

**8. How do we report our work on the Programme Focus Related Objectives?**

Clubs have two ways to report their work: through their Federations on the Programme Focus Report Form (PFRF) or on the newly created online programme focus database accessible through the SI website. (You can obtain the access passwords from your federation HQ.) Members will choose one of the six programme of service areas on the form that is most relevant to the work that they have done - this will help SI analyse the data.

**Please do not forget to tell us about any media successes that your club has achieved.**

All PFR data is now being entered into a worldwide database and Soroptimists can research activity related to many areas through the search capabilities of the database.

**9. Why is reporting our programme related activities important?**

Soroptimist International has made a commitment to its membership to take a more in depth look at the results and outcomes of their individual and collective work. To be the vibrant, dynamic organisation for today's professional and business women we need to be able to show that we are doing what we say we do and having an effect on changing the lives of women and girls. Additionally Soroptimists have been a recognized Non-Governmental Organisation with the United Nations for many years and have been given consultative relations because of the work we do. To retain that status we must show evidence of the work we are doing through reporting and our representatives to the UN.

### **Suggested guideline for presenting the 2007–2011 Programme Focus**

(Materials that are needed include: Leaflet; FAQ; PowerPoint Presentation available through SI.)

#### **Additional Resources:**

- Get information from a Programme Voting Delegate or other attendee at the SI Board Meeting in Glasgow 2007 who will describe the process of developing the Programme Focus;
- September 2007 edition of TIS;
- SI Policy and Procedures document, Section 2 SI Programme. (The SI Procedures document is available in the Members' section of the SI website. If you do not have the password, please e-mail [hq@soroptimistinternational.org](mailto:hq@soroptimistinternational.org).)

#### **Following is a suggested Guideline of 'talking points' to use:**

- Overview of SI process from the procedures of developing the Programme Focus - (Emphasize participation of Programme Voting Delegates from the entire world, Quadrennial process.)
- Review the components of the leaflet and their purpose - (Vision, Mission, Goals, United Nations Millennium Development Goals and Programme Focus Objectives)
- Review the Objectives and address questions related to the six Programmes of Service - (The six Programmes of Service exist in the SI Constitution so will remain as categories as long as they are contained within it)
- Club Activity as related to the Objectives - (Review YOUR service activity and identify which of the 10 objectives most appropriately fits the desired focus of your work.)
- Reporting - The importance of reporting your results on Programme Focus Report Forms
- Other Questions - (Don't forget to pass questions to your Federation Programme Director/Liaison or SI!)