

BELGISCHE SENAAAT

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De 59ste sessie van de Commissie van de Verenigde Naties voor de status van de vrouw – Peking +20

(New York, 9-20 maart 2015)

VERSLAG

**NAMENS DE COMMISSIE VOOR DE TRANSVERSALE AANGELEGENHEDEN – GEMEENSCHAPSBEVOEGDHEDEN
UITGEBRACHT DOOR
DE DAMES DE BUE EN MORREALE**

SÉNAT DE BELGIQUE

SESSION DE 2014-2015

29 MAI 2015

La 59^e session de la Commission des Nations unies de la condition de la femme – Pékin +20

(New York, 9-20 mars 2015)

RAPPORT

**FAIT AU NOM DE LA COMMISSION DES MATIÈRES TRANSVERSALES – COMPÉTENCES COMMUNAUTAIRES
PAR
MMES DE BUE ET MORREALE**

Samenstelling / Composition :

voorzitter / président : De heer / M. Pol Van Den Driessche

Leden / Membres :

N-VA	Piet De Bruyn, Jan Peumans, Pol Van Den Driessche, Miranda Van Eetvelde.
PS	Nadia El Yousfi, Christie Morreale, Christiane Vienne.
MR	Jacques Brotchi, Olivier Destrebecq, Yves Evrard.
CD&V	Sonja Claes, Cindy Franssen, Brigitte Grouwels.
Ecolo-Groen	Elisabeth Meuleman, Héléne Ryckmans
Open Vld	Rik Daems, Jean-Jacques De Gucht
sp.a	Bert Anciaux, Katia Segers.
cdH	Bertin Mampaka Mankamba

I. INLEIDING

De 59ste sessie van de Commissie van de Verenigde Naties voor de status van de vrouwen (*Commission on the Status of Women* – CSW) vond plaats in New York van 9 tot 20 maart 2015. Het hoofdthema van deze 59ste sessie was « Peking+20 ».

In het verleden was het Adviescomité voor gelijke kansen voor vrouwen en mannen bevoegd voor de opvolging van het Actieplatform van Peking. Daarover verschenen eerder al de verslagen nrs. 3-996/1, 3-1687/1, 4-716/1 en 4-1007/1. Deze verslagen kunnen geconsulteerd worden op de website van de Senaat (www.senaat.be).

Sinds 2014 worden de bevoegdheden van het Adviescomité uitgeoefend door de commissie voor de Transversale Aangelegenheden – Gemeenschapsbevoegdheden. Dit verslag sluit aan bij het informatieverlag van deze commissie betreffende de opvolging van de toepassing van het Actieplatform van de Vierde VN-Wereldvrouwenconferentie van Peking (zie documenten Senaat nrs. 6-97/1 en volgende).

De officiële Belgische delegatie in New York werd dit jaar geleid door mevrouw Elke Sleurs, federaal staatssecretaris voor Gelijke Kansen en bestond uit de bevoegde ministers van alle deelstaten en vertegenwoordigers van de Federale Staat en de deelstaten. De Senaat werd vertegenwoordigd door mevrouw Christine Defraigne, voorzitter van de Senaat, en de dames Christie Morreale en Valérie De Bue, senatoren en mede-verslaggeefsters van informatieverlag nr. 6-97/1.

II. VERSLAG OVER DE 59STE CSW DOOR DE VERTEGENWOORDIGERS VAN DE SENAAT

De deelname van de senaatsdelegatie aan de 59ste CSW kan niet los worden gezien van de werkzaamheden van de commissie voor de Transversale Aangelegenheden – Gemeenschapsbevoegdheden in het kader van het informatieverlag betreffende de opvolging van de toepassing van het Actieplatform van de Vierde VN-Wereldvrouwenconferentie van Peking. Naar aanleiding van dit informatieverlag werden hoorzittingen georganiseerd waarbij personen en organisaties werden uitgenodigd om hun standpunt te geven over de toestand van vrouwen en meisjes naar aanleiding van Peking+20. Deze hoorzittingen en het daaropvolgende debat in de commissie resulteerden in een reeks vaststellingen en aanbevelingen (zie documenten Senaat

I. INTRODUCTION

La 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme (*Commission on the Status of Women* – CSW) des Nations unies s'est tenue à New York du 9 au 20 mars 2015. Le thème principal de cette session était « Pékin+20 ».

Dans le passé, c'est le Comité d'avis pour l'égalité des chances entre les femmes et les hommes qui était compétent pour le suivi de la Plateforme d'action de Pékin, lequel suivi a déjà fait l'objet des rapports n° 3-996/1, 3-1687/1, 4-716/1 et 4-1007/1, consultables sur le site internet du Sénat (www.senate.be).

Depuis 2014, les compétences du Comité d'avis sont exercées par la commission des Matières transversales – Compétences communautaires. Le présent rapport s'inscrit dans le cadre du rapport d'information de cette commission concernant le suivi de la mise en œuvre de la Plateforme d'action de la quatrième Conférence mondiale des Nations unies sur les femmes (Pékin) (voir les documents Sénat n° 6-97/1 et suivants).

Cette année, la délégation officielle belge à New York était emmenée par Mme Elke Sleurs, secrétaire d'État fédérale compétente pour l'Égalité des chances, et était composée des ministres compétents de toutes les entités fédérées et de représentants de l'État fédéral et des entités fédérées. Le Sénat était représenté par Mme Christine Defraigne, présidente du Sénat, et par Mmes Christie Morreale et Valérie De Bue, sénatrices et co-rapporteuses du rapport d'information n° 6-97/1.

II. RAPPORT SUR LA 59^E SESSION DE LA CSW PAR LES REPRÉSENTANTS DU SÉNAT

La participation de la délégation du Sénat à la 59^e session de la CSW est indissociable des travaux menés par la commission des Matières transversales – Compétences communautaires dans le cadre du rapport d'information concernant le suivi de la mise en œuvre de la Plateforme d'action de la quatrième Conférence mondiale des Nations unies sur les femmes (Pékin). Lors des auditions organisées dans le cadre de ce rapport d'information, plusieurs intervenant(e)s et représentant(e)s d'organisations ont été invité(e)s à exposer leur point de vue sur la situation des femmes et des filles sous la perspective de Pékin+20. Ces auditions et le débat subséquent en commission ont débouché sur une série de constatations et de recommandations (voir

6-97/1 en volgende) die als leidraad werden gehanteerd door de senatoren die vervolgens deelnamen aan de 59ste CSW.

A. Officiële activiteiten van de 59ste zitting van de CSW

1. Plenaire Vergadering

De 59ste zitting van de VN-Commissie voor de status van de vrouw vond plaats in New York van 9 tot 20 maart 2015. De belangrijkste aandachtspunten waren :

— de Verklaring en het Actieplatform van Peking, met inbegrip van de huidige uitdagingen die een invloed hebben op de implementatie ervan en op het bereiken van gendergelijkheid en de *empowerment* van vrouwen ;

— een *follow-up* van de gerealiseerde vooruitgang in de implementatie van de Verklaring en het Actieplatform van Peking, twintig jaar na de goedkeuring ervan op de Vierde Wereldconferentie in 1995. Deze *follow-up* bevatte ook de resultaten van de 23ste speciale sessie van de Algemene Vergadering (Peking+5), die verdere actie en initiatieven onder de aandacht bracht ;

— de mogelijkheden voor het bereiken van gendergelijkheid en de *empowerment* van vrouwen in de post-2015 ontwikkelingsagenda.

Op 9 maart 2015 gaf de heer Ban Ki-Moon, secretaris-generaal van de Verenigde Naties, een toespraak ter gelegenheid van de opening van de 59ste zitting van de commissie voor de status van de vrouw. De volledige tekst van de openingstoespraak is terug te vinden als bijlage bij dit verslag (bijlage 1).

Mevrouw Mārīte Seile, minister van onderwijs van de Republiek van Letland, nam het woord namens de Europese Unie en mevrouw Elke Sleurs, staatssecretaris voor Armoedebestrijding, Gelijke Kansen, Personen met een beperking, Bestrijding van de fiscale fraude en Wetenschapsbeleid, nam het woord namens de Belgische delegatie. De tekst van beide interventies is terug te vinden als bijlage bij dit verslag (bijlagen 2 en 3).

2. Aangenomen teksten

Op 9 maart 2015 nam de Commissie een politieke beleidsverklaring aan ter gelegenheid van de twintigste

les documents Sénat n° 6-97/1 et suivants), qui ont servi à leur tour de fil rouge aux sénatrices qui ont ensuite participé à la 59^e session de la CSW.

A. Activités officielles de la 59^e session de la CSW

1. Assemblée plénière

La 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme des Nations unies s'est tenue à New York du 9 au 20 mars 2015. Les principaux thèmes abordés étaient les suivants :

— la Déclaration et le Programme d'action de Pékin, y compris les défis actuels affectant la mise en œuvre du Programme d'action, ainsi que la réalisation de l'égalité des sexes et de l'autonomisation des femmes ;

— l'examen des progrès réalisés dans l'application de la Déclaration et du Programme d'action de Pékin, vingt ans après son adoption lors de la Quatrième conférence mondiale sur les femmes qui s'est tenue en 1995. Cet examen reflétait également les conclusions de la 23^e session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale (Pékin+5), qui a mis en relief de nouvelles actions et initiatives ;

— les opportunités en faveur de la réalisation de l'égalité des sexes et de l'autonomisation des femmes dans le programme de développement pour l'après-2015.

Le 9 mars 2015, M. Ban Ki-Moon, secrétaire général des Nations unies, a prononcé le discours d'ouverture de la 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme. Le texte intégral du discours d'ouverture est annexé au présent rapport (annexe 1).

Mme Mārīte Seile, ministre de l'Enseignement de la République de Lettonie, a pris la parole au nom de l'Union européenne et Mme Elke Sleurs, secrétaire d'État à la Lutte contre la pauvreté, à l'Égalité des chances, aux Personnes handicapées, à la Lutte contre la fraude fiscale et à la Politique scientifique, a pris la parole au nom de la délégation belge. Le texte de ces deux interventions est annexé au présent rapport (annexes 2 et 3).

2. Textes adoptés

Le 9 mars 2015, la Commission a adopté une déclaration politique à l'occasion du vingtième anniversaire de

verjaardag van de Vierde Wereldvrouwenconferentie. De tekst van de beleidsverklaring is terug te vinden als bijlage bij dit verslag (bijlage 4).

Op 20 maart 2015 nam de Commissie een ontwerp van resolutie aan betreffende de toekomstige organisatie en werkmethodes van de Commissie voor de Status van de vrouw. Deze tekst wordt in juni voorgelegd aan ECOSOC voor verdere actie. De tekst van dit ontwerp van resolutie is terug te vinden als bijlage bij dit verslag (bijlage 5).

3. Ministeriële rondetafels

Het programma van de 59ste sessie van de Commissie voor de status van de vrouw omvatte naast de plenaire vergadering die openstond voor lidstaten en VN-waarnemers, ook vier ministeriële ronde tafels over prioriteiten voor toekomstige initiatieven voor het realiseren van gendergelijkheid, de *empowerment* van vrouwen en de mensenrechten van vrouwen en meisjes.

De eerste rondetafel (ronde tafel A) had als thema « *Making the economy work for women and girls* ». De deelnemende minister was mevrouw Elke Sleurs, staatssecretaris voor Armoedebestrijding, Gelijke Kansen, Personen met een beperking, Bestrijding van de fiscale fraude en Wetenschapsbeleid.

De tweede rondetafel (ronde tafel B) had als thema « *Investing in gender equality and the empowerment of women* ». De deelnemende minister was mevrouw Liesbeth Homans, viceminister-president van de Vlaamse regering, Vlaams minister van Binnenlands Bestuur, Inburgering, Wonen, Gelijke Kansen en Armoedebestrijding.

Het derde thema voor de ministeriële rondetafel (ronde tafel C) was « *Transforming politics and public life to achieve gender equality* ». De deelnemende minister was mevrouw Bianca Debaets, Staatssecretaris van het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest belast met Ontwikkelingssamenwerking, Verkeersveiligheidsbeleid, Gewestelijke en Gemeentelijke Informatica en Digitalisering, Gelijkekansenbeleid en Dierenwelzijn.

Op de laatste ronde tafel (ronde tafel D) kwam ten slotte het thema « *Accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls* » aan bod. De deelnemende minister was mevrouw Isabelle Simonis, minister van

la Quatrième conférence mondiale sur les femmes. Le texte de cette déclaration politique est joint au présent rapport (annexe 4).

Le 20 mars 2015, la Commission a adopté un projet de résolution concernant l'organisation future des travaux et les méthodes de travail de la Commission de la condition de la femme. Le texte de ce projet sera soumis à l'ECOSOC en juin, pour suite voulue. Il est annexé au présent rapport (annexe 5).

3. Tables rondes ministérielles

Le programme de la 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme des Nations unies comprenait, outre la séance plénière ouverte aux États membres et aux observateurs de l'ONU, quatre tables rondes ministérielles sur le thème « Priorités de l'action à mener pour parvenir à l'égalité des sexes, autonomiser les femmes et assurer le respect des droits fondamentaux des femmes et des filles ».

La première table ronde (table ronde A) avait pour thème « Mettre l'économie au service des femmes et des filles ». La ministre qui a participé à cette table ronde est Mme Elke Sleurs, secrétaire d'État à la Lutte contre la pauvreté, à l'Égalité des chances, aux Personnes handicapées, à la Lutte contre la fraude fiscale et à la Politique scientifique.

La deuxième table ronde (table ronde B) était organisée sur le thème « Investir dans l'égalité entre les sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes ». La ministre qui y a participé est Mme Liesbeth Homans, vice-ministre-présidente du gouvernement flamand, ministre flamande de l'Administration intérieure, de l'Intégration civique, du Logement, de l'Égalité des chances et de la Lutte contre la pauvreté.

La troisième table ronde ministérielle (table ronde C) avait pour thème : « Transformer la politique et la vie publique pour parvenir à l'égalité entre les sexes ». La ministre qui a participé à cette table ronde est Mme Bianca Debaets, secrétaire d'État à la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale, chargée de la Coopération au développement, de la Sécurité routière, de l'Informatique régionale et communale et de la Transition numérique, de l'Égalité des chances et du Bien-être animal.

La dernière table ronde (table ronde D) avait pour thème « Appliquer le principe de responsabilité afin de parvenir à l'égalité de fait pour les femmes et les filles ». A participé à cette table ronde Mme Isabelle Simonis,

de Franse Gemeenschap bevoegd voor het Onderwijs voor sociale promotie, Jeugd, Vrouwenrechten en Gelijke Kansen.

De samenvattingen van de rondetafelgesprekken door de voorzitter van elke rondetafel zijn terug te vinden als bijlagen bij dit verslag (bijlagen 6 tot 9).

4. Panelgesprekken

Het officiële programma omvatte ook interactieve panelgesprekken om de uitwisseling van ervaringen mogelijk te maken. De panelgesprekken hadden als thema :

— panel 1 : « *National mechanisms for gender equality : advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change* » ;

— panel 2 : « *Results of regional Beijing+20 events of the UN regional commissions* » ;

— panel 3 : « *Resources for gender equality – good practices and strategies for action/the way forward* » ;

— panel 4 : « *The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality* » ;

— panel 5 : « *Changing social norms to achieve gender equality : expectations and opportunities* » ;

— panel 6 : « *Building the evidence and monitoring results : gender statistics and indicators* » ;

— panel 7 : « *Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls* » ;

— panel 8 : « *The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming : a dialogue with functional commissions* » ;

— panel 9 : « *Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals : lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change* ».

De samenvattingen van deze panelgesprekken door de voorzitter van elk panel zijn terug te vinden als bijlagen bij dit verslag (bijlagen 10 tot 18).

ministre de la Communauté française en charge de l'Enseignement de promotion sociale, de la Jeunesse, des Droits des femmes et de l'Égalité des chances.

Les résumés des tables rondes, réalisés par les présidents respectifs de celles-ci, sont annexés au présent rapport (annexes 6 à 9).

4. Discussions de groupe

Le programme officiel prévoyait également des discussions de groupe interactives permettant des échanges d'expérience. Les thèmes de ces discussions de groupe étaient les suivants :

— panel 1 : « *National mechanisms for gender equality : advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change* » ;

— panel 2 : « *Results of regional Beijing+20 events of the UN regional commissions* » ;

— panel 3 : « *Resources for gender equality – good practices and strategies for action/the way forward* » ;

— panel 4 : « *The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality* » ;

— panel 5 : « *Changing social norms to achieve gender equality : expectations and opportunities* » ;

— panel 6 : « *Building the evidence and monitoring results : gender statistics and indicators* » ;

— panel 7 : « *Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls* » ;

— panel 8 : « *The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming : a dialogue with functional commissions* » ;

— panel 9 : « *Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals : lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change* ».

Les résumés de ces groupes de discussion, réalisés par les présidents respectifs de ceux-ci, sont annexés au présent rapport (annexes 10 à 18).

III. NIET-EXHAUSTIEF OVERZICHT VAN DE ACTIVITEITEN IN DE MARGE VAN DE 59STE ZITTING

In de marge van de plenaire zitting hebben internationale organisaties en permanente vertegenwoordigers van de deelnemende staten heel wat seminars, forums en *workshops* georganiseerd. Ook de niet-gouvernementele organisaties (NGO) hebben in de marge van de officiële zitting tientallen nevenevenementen opgezet.

A. Vergadering van de Interparlementaire Unie

Op 11 maart organiseerde de Interparlementaire Unie een parallel evenement, met als thema : « *Parliaments for Gender Equality : Priorities for Beijing +20 and beyond* ».

De eerste zitting van de vergadering had als thema : « *Beijing and beyond : what more is required to achieve gender equality ?* ». De Verklaring en het Programma van Peking werden in 1995 aangenomen door honderd negenentachtig regeringen en bevestigen zonder beperking de rechten van vrouwen en de noodzaak om hun emancipatie te bewerkstelligen. Twintig jaar later blijken de verbintenissen die in deze teksten zijn aangegaan slechts gedeeltelijk te zijn verwezenlijkt. Tijdens de zitting wordt er gesproken over de belangrijkste verwezenlijkingen en over de hindernissen die de verdere uitvoering van het programma nog in de weg staan. De parlementsleden werden vervolgens verzocht om te antwoorden op vragen met betrekking tot de belangrijkste verwezenlijkingen sedert Peking, meer bepaald in verband met de deelname van vrouwen aan het politieke leven, maatregelen die nog uitgevoerd moeten worden in het kader van het programma van Peking, en de sociale en culturele normen van de voorbije twintig jaar die het ten uitvoer leggen van het volledige Actieprogramma hinderen.

De tweede zitting had als thema « *Partnerships for gender equality* ». Dit thema sneed de noodzaak aan om strategische partnerschappen te sluiten met verschillende partijen, onder andere met het middenveld, de jongeren, de mannen en de media. Wat hebben de parlementsleden ondernomen ? Hoe hebben zij jongeren voorgesteld en aangemoedigd om over gendergelijkheid na te denken ? Welke maatregelen hebben de mannelijke parlementsleden genomen ? En welke 'goede praktijken' hebben de parlementsleden en parlementsleden toegepast om de media aan te moedigen om gendergelijkheidsthema's aan te snijden zonder terug te vallen op seksistische stereotypen ?

III. APERÇU NON EXHAUSTIF DES ACTIVITÉS ORGANISÉES EN MARGE DE LA 59E SESSION

Des organisations internationales et des représentants permanents des États participants ont organisé de nombreux séminaires, forums et *workshops* en marge de la séance plénière. Des dizaines d'événements parallèles ont également été organisés par des organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) en marge de la séance officielle.

A. Réunion de l'Union interparlementaire

Le 11 mars, l'Union Interparlementaire (UIP) organisait un événement parallèle dont le thème était : « Les Parlements se mobilisent pour l'égalité des sexes : les priorités pour Beijing +20 et après ».

La première session de cette réunion avait comme thème : « Le Suivi de Beijing : que faut-il encore faire pour parvenir à l'égalité des sexes ? ». La Déclaration et le Programme de Beijing ont été adoptés en 1995 par cent quatre-vingt-neuf gouvernements, où ils proclament sans restriction les droits des femmes et la nécessité d'œuvrer à leur émancipation. Vingt ans plus tard, les engagements pris dans ces textes ne sont encore que partiellement mis en œuvre. Il est question pendant cette séance des principales réalisations et des obstacles qui entravent encore la mise en œuvre du Programme. Les parlementaires étaient ensuite invités à répondre aux questions concernant les principales réalisations accomplies depuis Beijing, notamment en ce qui concerne la participation des femmes à la vie politique, les mesures prises qui doivent encore être mises en œuvre dans le cadre du programme de Beijing et les normes sociales et culturelles apparues ces vingt dernières années qui entravent la mise en œuvre complète du Programme d'action.

La deuxième session avait comme thème « Des partenariats pour l'égalité des sexes ». Ce thème abordait la nécessité de nouer des partenariats stratégiques avec différentes parties prenantes, notamment la société civile, les jeunes, les hommes et les médias. Quelles démarches ont prises les parlementaires ? Comment ont-ils invité et incité les jeunes à réfléchir à la question de l'égalité des sexes ? Quelles mesures ont été prises par les parlementaires hommes ? Et quelles bonnes pratiques les parlements et les parlementaires ont-ils appliquées pour encourager les médias à aborder les questions de l'égalité des sexes en évitant les stéréotypes sexistes ?

De derde zitting had als thema « *Driving global change : women's leadership in international fora* ». Tijdens deze zitting werd er gesproken over een betere vertegenwoordiging van vrouwen in de besturen van leidinggevende en besluitvormende instanties en over de hindernissen die vrouwen beletten om deel te nemen aan internationale fora op hoog niveau, de strategieën die kunnen worden aangewend om daar tegenin te gaan en de lessen die we kunnen trekken uit de reeds geleverde inspanningen.

B. Forum, panels en activiteiten van de NGO's

1. *Over de sociaal-economische positie van de vrouw (vrouwen en gezondheid, vrouwen en economie en vrouwen en milieu)*

1.1. *Equal Pay Day – Closing the Gap* (georganiseerd door de Permanente Missie van Duitsland bij de UN)

De sprekers op dit event waren mevrouw Elke Ferner, *Parlamentarische Staatssekretärin bei der Bundesministerin für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend*; mevrouw Bettina Schleicher, gewezen voorzitter van de *Deutscher Frauenrat*; mevrouw Henrike von Platen, voorzitter van de *Business and Professional Women – Germany (BPW)*; mevrouw Maria Tomassetti, *Deputy Head of Unit, Gender Equality, DG Justice, European Commission*; mevrouw Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla, voorzitter van de *Business and Professional Women (BPW) Calgary (Canada)* en mevrouw Janis Shaw, voorzitter van de *Business and Professional Women (BPW) Darwin, NT, Australië*.

De eerste *Equal Pay day* werd in 2008 georganiseerd door de *Business and Professional Women (BPW)* in Duitsland. Het initiatief kende succes en werd in 2009 overgenomen door onder andere België, Frankrijk, Oostenrijk en Zwitserland. Vanaf 2010 was er een uitgebreide groei van landen die lokale *Equal Pay Days* organiseerden. Sinds 2011 wordt ook een Europese *Equal Pay Day* berekend.

Mevrouw Elke Ferner nam het woord om te wijzen op de aanhoudende verschillen tussen de lonen van mannen en vrouwen. In Duitsland bedraagt de loonkloof 21,6 % en daarmee bekleedt het land de derde laatste positie in de EU. Betere kinderopvang en het opnemen van ouderschapsverlof door vaders moet enig soelaas brengen. Ook andere acties zijn aangewezen en in dat kader merkte spreekster op dat de Bondsraad net heeft

La troisième session abordait le thème « Vers un changement mondial : accroître la place des femmes dans les forums internationaux ». Pendant cette session, on parlait de la réalisation d'une meilleure représentation des femmes dans les sièges des instances dirigeantes et décisionnaires, ainsi que des obstacles qui entravent la participation des femmes aux forums internationaux de haut niveau, des stratégies qu'on peut adopter pour les déjouer et des enseignements que l'on peut tirer des efforts déployés.

B. Forums, panels et activités des ONG

1. *Concernant le statut socioéconomique de la femme (les femmes et la santé, les femmes et l'économie, les femmes et l'environnement)*

1.1. *Equal Pay Day – Closing the Gap* (organisé par la Mission permanente de l'Allemagne auprès des Nations unies)

Les oratrices qui ont participé à cet événement sont Mme Elke Ferner, secrétaire d'État auprès de la ministre fédérale allemande de la Famille, des Personnes âgées, des Femmes et de la Jeunesse; Mme Bettina Schleicher, ex-présidente du *Deutscher Frauenrat*; Mme Henrike von Platen, présidente de *Business and Professional Women – Germany (BPW)*; Mme Maria Tomassetti, cheffe d'unité adjointe, Égalité des genres, DG Justice, Commission européenne; Mme Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla, présidente de *Business and Professional Women (BPW) Calgary (Canada)* et Mme Janis Shaw, présidente de *Business and Professional Women (BPW) Darwin, NT, Australie*.

La première Journée de l'égalité salariale (*Equal Pay day*) a été organisée en 2008 en Allemagne par la *Business and Professional Women (BPW)*. Cette initiative ayant été couronnée de succès, d'autres pays comme la Belgique, la France, l'Autriche et la Suisse s'y sont associés en 2009. Depuis 2010, nombreux sont les pays à avoir rejoint le mouvement en organisant leur Journée de l'égalité salariale. Depuis 2011, il y a aussi une Journée européenne de l'égalité salariale.

Mme Elke Ferner a pris la parole pour rappeler les différences persistantes entre les salaires des hommes et ceux des femmes. En Allemagne, l'écart salarial atteint 21,6 %, ce qui vaut à ce pays d'occuper l'antépénultième position au classement des pays européens. L'amélioration des formules d'accueil de la petite enfance et la prise du congé parental par les pères devraient améliorer quelque peu les choses. D'autres actions doivent

ingestemd met een wet die de raden van bestuur van grote Duitse bedrijven verplicht tenminste 30 % van de zetels voor te behouden voor één geslacht. Middelgrote bedrijven zullen zelf quota moeten vaststellen.

Mevrouw Bettina Schleicher gaf een historisch overzicht van de organisatie en gaf tevens een globaal overzicht van de problematiek aan de hand van OESO-cijfers, terwijl mevrouw Henrike von Platen wees op de Duitse vooruitgang, met de zeer recente quota als sluitstuk.

Mevrouw Maria Tomassetti bracht de Europese wetgeving onder de aandacht. Ondanks deze wetgeving bedraagt de gemiddelde loonkloof in Europa 16,4 %. Een stijgend of dalend percentage van de loonkloof zegt niet alles. Zo betekent een dalend percentage bijvoorbeeld niet altijd dat de gemiddelde loonkloof afneemt, het kan evengoed betekenen dat vrouwen in hogere posities beter betaald worden dan vroeger. Bij gepensioneerden bedraagt de genderkloof 69 %. Veel oudere vrouwen lopen een hoog armoederisico. Zij hebben vaak een minder lange professionele carrière achter de rug. Bovendien hechten de bestaande pensioensystemen veel meer belang aan bezoldigde arbeid buitenshuis dan aan onbezoldigde huishoudelijke arbeid.

Mevrouw Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla, en mevrouw Janis Shaw tenslotte gaven beiden een overzicht van de situatie in hun land. In Canada is volgens spreekster het probleem niet zozeer dat er meer wetgeving nodig is, maar hoe de wetgeving kan gebruikt worden door de werkende vrouwen. Australië focust dan weer meer op beleid dan op wetgeving. Werkgevers moeten ervan overtuigd worden dat gendergelijkheid een goede zaak is voor hun onderneming.

1.2. Increasing Women's Workforce Participation : Barriers and Solutions from the G20 and Beyond (georganiseerd door de Permanente Missies bij de UN van Australië, Japan, Spanje, Turkije en Vietnam)

De sprekers op dit event waren mevrouw Elizabeth Broderick, *Sex discrimination commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission* ; mevrouw Pham Thi Hai Chuyen, *minister of Labour* van Vietnam, mevrouw Hiroko Hashimoto, *Prof. em. Gender studies & Principal, Jumonji High School*, Japan, mevrouw Carmen Quintanilla, parlementslid, Spanje en mevrouw

également être menées et dans ce cadre, l'intervenante a relevé que le Parlement fédéral allemand vient de voter une loi en vertu de laquelle au moins 30 % des sièges au sein des conseils d'administration des grandes entreprises allemandes sont obligatoirement réservés à chacun des sexes. Les moyennes entreprises fixeront elles-mêmes leur quota.

Après avoir retracé l'historique de l'organisation, Mme Bettina Schleicher a brossé un aperçu global de la problématique sur la base des chiffres de l'OCDE, tandis que Mme Henrike von Platen a mis en exergue les progrès enregistrés en Allemagne, avec en point d'orgue les quotas instaurés tout récemment.

Mme Maria Tomassetti a attiré l'attention sur la législation européenne. Malgré cette législation, l'écart salarial moyen atteint 16,4 % en Europe. Un accroissement ou une diminution de l'écart salarial ne dit pas tout. Une baisse de ce pourcentage ne signifie pas toujours que l'écart salarial moyen diminue ; cela peut tout aussi bien vouloir dire que les femmes qui occupent des hauts postes sont mieux payées qu'auparavant. Chez les pensionnés, l'écart salarial entre les hommes et les femmes atteint 69 %. Un grand nombre de femmes âgées sont très exposées au risque de pauvreté. Elles ont souvent une carrière professionnelle moins longue. De plus, les systèmes de pension existants accordent beaucoup plus d'importance au travail rémunéré effectué hors domicile qu'au travail ménager non rémunéré.

Mme Jenny Gulamani-Abdulla et Mme Janis Shaw, enfin, ont présenté chacune un aperçu de la situation dans leur pays. Pour la première intervenante, le problème au Canada n'est pas tant la nécessité de légiférer que la manière dont la législation peut être utilisée par les femmes qui travaillent. Quant à l'Australie, elle se concentre davantage sur la politique que sur la législation. Il s'agit de convaincre les employeurs que l'égalité des genres est une bonne chose pour leur entreprise.

1.2. Increasing Women's Workforce Participation : Barriers and Solutions from the G20 and Beyond (organisé par les Missions permanentes de l'Australie, du Japon, de l'Espagne, de la Turquie et du Viêt Nam auprès des Nations unies)

Les oratrices qui ont pris la parole lors de cet événement sont Mme Elizabeth Broderick, *Sex discrimination commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission* ; Mme Pham Thi Hai Chuyen, ministre vietnamienne du Travail, Mme Hiroko Hashimoto, *Prof. em. Gender studies & Principal, Jumonji High School*, Japon ; Mme Carmen Quintanilla, parlementaire espagnole et

Nesrin Çelik, *undersecretary of the ministry of Family and Social Policies*, Turkije. De moderator was mevrouw Michaela Cash, *minister assisting the Prime minister for Women*, Australië.

Mevrouw Elizabeth Broderick sprak over de resultaten van een onderzoek naar discriminatie op het werk naar aanleiding van zwangerschap en na de terugkeer uit zwangerschapsverlof (« *Supporting Working Parents : Pregnancy and Return to Work National Review – Report 2014* »). Het blijkt dat een op twee vrouwen zegt zich slachtoffer te voelen van discriminatie op de werkvloer, ofwel tijdens hun zwangerschap, ofwel na terugkeer uit ouderschapsverlof. Slechts 9 % van deze vrouwen diende formeel klacht in. Eén van de belangrijkste conclusies van het onderzoek was dat er goede wetgeving bestaat, maar dat er op het terrein nog veel discriminatie voorkomt. Vrouwen, vooral zwangere vrouwen, moeten beter ingelicht worden over hun rechten en voor zwangere vrouwen gebeurt dat nu systematisch.

Mevrouw Hiroko Hashimoto wees op de specifieke situatie in Japan, waar nog steeds 60 % van de vrouwen voltijds huisvrouw worden eens ze moeder worden. Eenmaal hun kind naar school gaat, gaan veel vrouwen weer deeltijds werken, maar vaak gaat het om tijdelijk werk. Er zijn bijzonder weinig vrouwen op beslissingsniveau aanwezig. Toch is er enige vooruitgang, onder meer door maatregelen om kinderopvang uit te breiden en om de deelname van vrouwen aan de arbeidsmarkt aan te moedigen.

Mevrouw Carmen Quintanilla praatte over de economische crisis die Spanje bijzonder zwaar heeft getroffen. Het jobverlies bij vrouwen ligt 2 % hoger dan bij mannen. Er wordt een strategisch plan gelanceerd dat gebaseerd is op twee pijlers : werk en verzoening. Werk is essentieel om economisch onafhankelijk en vrij te zijn, maar de verzoening tussen werk en gezin is vaak even belangrijk, zowel voor vrouwen als voor mannen. Dit komt onder andere tot uiting in het voorstel om zowel aan vrouwen als aan mannen zestien weken ouderschapsverlof te geven, dat niet overdraagbaar zou zijn tussen de ouders. Tenslotte vernoemt spreekster het belang van grondeigendom. 70 % van het wereldvoedsel wordt door vrouwen geteeld, maar zij bezitten slechts 2 % van de gronden. Spanje heeft hier iets aan willen veranderen door vrouwen van landbouwers rechten te geven waardoor ze recht krijgen op betaald verlof, ziekteverzekering, pensioen, enz.

Mme Nesrin Çelik, sous-secrétaire au ministère de la Famille et aux Politiques sociale, Turquie. La modératrice était Mme Michaela Cash, ministre adjointe auprès du premier ministre pour les questions relatives aux femmes, Australie.

Mme Elizabeth Broderick a parlé des résultats d'une enquête sur la discrimination sur le lieu de travail dans le cadre de la grossesse et après le retour du congé de maternité (« *Supporting Working Parents : Pregnancy and Return to Work National Review – Report 2014* »). Il s'avère qu'une femme sur deux se sent victime de discrimination au travail, soit pendant sa grossesse, soit à son retour de congé de maternité. Seules 9 % de ces femmes ont déposé une plainte formelle. L'une des principales conclusions de l'enquête était que, s'il existe une bonne législation, les discriminations sont cependant encore trop fréquentes sur le terrain. Les femmes doivent être mieux informées de leurs droits, surtout les femmes enceintes. Elles le sont d'ailleurs systématiquement aujourd'hui.

Mme Hiroko Hashimoto a évoqué la situation spécifique au Japon, où 60 % des femmes sont encore femme au foyer après avoir eu un enfant. Une fois que leur enfant va à l'école, bon nombre d'entre elles retournent travailler à temps partiel, mais il s'agit en fait souvent de travail temporaire. Il y a particulièrement peu de femmes au niveau décisionnel. L'on enregistre pourtant certains progrès, notamment grâce à des mesures visant à développer l'accueil de la petite enfance et à encourager la participation des femmes au marché du travail.

Mme Carmen Quintanilla a parlé de la crise économique qui a lourdement touché l'Espagne. Les pertes d'emploi enregistrées chez les femmes sont 2 % plus élevées que chez les hommes. Les autorités lancent un plan stratégique basé sur deux piliers : travail et conciliation. Le travail est un vecteur essentiel d'autonomie économique et de liberté, mais la conciliation entre vie professionnelle et vie de famille est tout aussi importante, tant pour les femmes que pour les hommes. Cela s'exprime notamment dans la proposition visant à donner aux femmes comme aux hommes seize semaines de congé parental, non transférables entre les parents. Enfin, l'intervenante a rappelé l'importance de la propriété foncière. Quelque 70 % de la nourriture est cultivée par des femmes à l'échelle mondiale, mais ces dernières ne possèdent que 2 % des terres cultivées. L'Espagne a voulu changer les choses en donnant aux femmes de cultivateurs des droits leur ouvrant accès au congé payé, à l'assurance maladie, à la retraite, etc.

Mevrouw Pham Thi Hai Chuyen geeft een overzicht van de Vietnamese situatie. De deelname van vrouwen aan de arbeidsmarkt bedraagt er 73,5 %, die van mannen 83 %. Achtenveertig procent van de vrouwen zijn eigenaar van een eigen bedrijf. Om de genderkloof te dichten wordt vooral aandacht geschonken aan vrouwen op het platteland, uit de bergstreken en behorend tot minderheidsgroepen. Vrouwen belanden vaak in minder goed betaalde jobs omdat ze minder kwalificaties hebben dan mannen. Als gevolg van de sterke urbanisering stellen zich ook meer problemen voor vrouwen die zich in de stad hebben gevestigd : zij moeten vaak een zorgtaak combineren met de zoektocht naar werk. Bovendien geven werkgevers nog steeds de voorkeur aan mannen.

1.3. Bilan van het *Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme*, met betrekking tot de toepassing van het actieprogramma van Peking, twintig jaar later : *Leadership et autonomisation des femmes francophones, les priorités du RFEFH pour la francophonie* (georganiseerd door de *Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF) – Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme (RFEFH)*)

Volgende personen namen deel aan dit event : mevrouw Ndioro Ndiaye, voorzitter van de RFEFH (*Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme*) ; mevrouw Anne Delorme, *coordinatrice du Comité québécois femmes et développement* ; mevrouw Marlène Menoux, *Genre en action* ; mevrouw Justine Diffo, *coordinatrice nationale – Réseau More Women in POLITICS* en de heer Roger Ferrari, *président de la Conférence des OING de la Francophonie*.

Twintig jaar na de conferentie van Peking is de economische participatie van vrouwen een essentieel strijdpunt in de landen die deel uitmaken van de Francophonie. Ondanks een zekere vooruitgang blijven vrouwen het slachtoffer van talrijke discriminaties wat betreft de toegang tot economische en productiebronnen. Vaak worden vrouwen zelfs gediscrimineerd in hun zoektocht naar een goede baan. Het glazen plafond en de segmentatie van de arbeidsmarkt belemmeren de toegang tot directieposten en versterken de loonongelijkheden. Ook het huishoudelijk werk en de zorgtaken waar veel vrouwen mee belast zijn blijven onzichtbaar en wegen zwaar.

Dit event ging na hoe deze obstakels uit de weg kunnen geruimd worden, zodat vrouwen autonomer kunnen worden en ze beter toegang krijgen tot goede jobs. Welke

Mme Pham Thi Hai Chuyen a donné un aperçu de la situation au Viêt Nam. Dans ce pays, 73,5 % des femmes participent au marché du travail, contre 83 % pour les hommes. Quarante-huit pourcent des femmes sont propriétaires d'une entreprise. Pour combler le fossé entre hommes et femmes, l'attention se porte surtout sur les femmes des zones rurales, des régions montagneuses et des groupes minoritaires. Les femmes ont souvent des emplois moins bien rémunérés parce qu'elles sont moins qualifiées que les hommes. La forte urbanisation engendre aussi plus de problèmes pour les femmes qui se sont installées en ville et qui doivent souvent s'occuper des tâches familiales tout en cherchant un travail. De plus, les employeurs continuent de privilégier les hommes.

1.3. Bilan du Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme sur l'application du programme d'action de Beijing, vingt ans après : *Leadership et autonomisation des femmes francophones, les priorités du RFEFH pour la francophonie* organisé par l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie (OIF) – Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme (RFEFH))

Ont participé à cet événement : Mme Ndioro Ndiaye, présidente du RFEFH (*Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme*) ; Mme Anne Delorme, coordinatrice du Comité québécois femmes et développement ; Mme Marlène Menoux, Genre en Action ; Mme Justine Diffo, coordinatrice nationale – Réseau *More Women in POLITICS* et M. Roger Ferrari, président de la Conférence des OING de la Francophonie.

Vingt ans après la Conférence de Pékin, la participation économique des femmes reste une problématique majeure dans les pays membres de la Francophonie. Malgré certaines avancées tangibles, les femmes sont toujours victimes de nombreuses discriminations en ce qui concerne l'accès aux sources économiques et productives. C'est même souvent le cas lorsqu'elles se mettent à la recherche d'un emploi de qualité. Le plafond de verre et la segmentation du marché du travail les empêchent d'accéder à des postes de direction et accentuent les inégalités salariales. De surcroît, toutes les tâches domestiques et de soins que les femmes sont amenées à accomplir demeurent invisibles et représentent une lourde charge.

Dans le cadre de l'événement précité, l'objectif était de voir comment procéder pour lever ces obstacles afin que les femmes gagnent en autonomie et aient accès à des

economische strategie kan gebruikt worden, specifiek in de landen van de Francophonie, om de gelijkheid van vrouwen en mannen te ondersteunen? Welke partnerships kunnen aangegaan worden om concrete vooruitgang te boeken?

Tenslotte stelde het *Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme* een tekst voor waarin het, na een evaluatie van Peking+20, met onmiddellijke ingang gelijkheid eist tussen vrouwen en mannen, waarvoor in alle landen die deel uitmaken van de Francophonie een aantal actiepunten moeten uitgevoerd worden (« *Nous voulons l'égalité maintenant!* », Document de position du réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme).

2. *Over empowerment (vrouwen en armoede, vrouwen en de media)*

2.1. *Women with Disabilities : 20 Years after Beijing* (georganiseerd door *Rehabilitation International Global*, RI Nieuw Zeeland, RI India, RI USA, RI Noorwegen en RI Nigeria)

Deelnemers aan dit panel waren mevrouw Barbara LeRoy, *vice-chair, Education Commission, Rehabilitation International*; mevrouw Ann Hawker, RI New Zealand; mevrouw Ekaete Judith Umoh, *vice president RI Africa* en mevrouw Venus Ilagan, *RI secretary general*.

Volgens mevrouw LeRoy is onderwijs de meest efficiënte manier om de millenniumdoelstellingen te bereiken. Jammer genoeg blijken vrouwen met een handicap het minste kans te maken een opleiding te krijgen, zelfs op het niveau van basisonderwijs. Deelnemen aan middelbaar onderwijs is nog veel moeilijker. Dit leidt ertoe dat vrouwen met een handicap vaak ingezet worden om de familie onbetaald te ondersteunen als kok, poetshulp of meid. Dit betekent wel dat ze niet beschikbaar zijn voor de arbeidsmarkt en dus geen eigen inkomen hebben en financieel afhankelijk blijven van anderen.

Mevrouw Hawker stelt dat er op papier wel aandacht wordt besteed aan vrouwen met een handicap, maar dat de realiteit weinig fraai oogt. Deze vrouwen lopen een groter risico op armoede, ze genieten vaak geen sociale zekerheid, gaan gebukt onder een sociaal stigma, hun politieke rechten worden vaak niet gehoord en ze lopen een groter risico het slachtoffer te worden van seksueel en ander geweld. De oorzaak hiervan is deels systemisch.

emplois de qualité. Quelle stratégie économique peut-on mettre en œuvre, en particulier dans les pays de la Francophonie, pour promouvoir l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes? Quels partenariats peut-on mettre en place pour progresser concrètement dans cette voie?

Enfin, le Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme a proposé un texte dans lequel il dit revendiquer, après évaluation de Pékin+20, l'instauration immédiate d'une égalité entre les femmes et les hommes et préconise la mise en œuvre d'un certain nombre d'actions dans l'ensemble des pays membres de la Francophonie (« *Nous voulons l'égalité maintenant!* », Document de position du réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme).

2. *Concernant l'autonomisation (les femmes et la pauvreté, les femmes et les médias)*

2.1. *Women with Disabilities : 20 Years after Beijing* (organisé par *Rehabilitation International Global*, RI Nouvelle-Zélande, RI Inde, RI USA, RI Norvège et RI Nigéria)

Ont participé à ce panel Mme Barbara LeRoy, vice-présidente de la commission de l'Éducation, *Rehabilitation International*; Mme Ann Hawker, RI Nouvelle-Zélande; Mme Ekaete Judith Umoh, vice-présidente de RI Afrique et Mme Venus Ilagan, secrétaire générale de RI.

Selon Mme LeRoy, l'enseignement est le moyen le plus efficace d'atteindre les objectifs du millénaire. Il s'avère malheureusement que les femmes handicapées constituent le groupe qui a le moins de chances de recevoir une formation, même au niveau de l'enseignement fondamental. Il leur est encore beaucoup plus difficile de suivre l'enseignement secondaire. De ce fait, les femmes atteintes d'un handicap sont souvent utilisées comme soutien non rémunéré de la famille en tant que cuisinière, femme de ménage ou servante. Cela signifie qu'elles ne sont pas disponibles sur le marché du travail et donc qu'elles n'ont aucun revenu personnel, de sorte qu'elles restent financièrement dépendantes d'autres personnes.

Mme Hawker a affirmé que, sur papier, on accorde de l'attention aux femmes handicapées, mais que la réalité est beaucoup moins rose. Ces femmes sont plus exposées au risque de pauvreté, elles n'ont souvent pas droit à la sécurité sociale, portent le poids de leurs stigmates sociaux, leurs droits politiques ne sont souvent pas entendus et elles sont plus exposées au risque d'être victimes de violences sexuelles ou autres. La cause

Er bestaan nauwelijks nationale strategieën inzake handicap, personen met een handicap worden niet genoeg betrokken bij het beleid, de financiële ondersteuning volstaat niet, enz. Bovendien ontbreekt het veel landen aan betrouwbare data over deze doelgroep.

Mevrouw Ekaete Judith Umoh wijst er op dat programma's om armoede te verminderen meestal niet specifiek gericht zijn op vrouwen met een handicap. Er moet meer aandacht gaan naar de betrokkenen zelf en zij moeten alle kansen krijgen zich te ontplooiën binnen de maatschappij. Mevrouw Venus Ilagan is er zich van bewust dat de realisatie van de rechten van vrouwen met een handicap niet stante pede zal gebeuren. Het mag echter niet nog eens twintig jaar op zich laten wachten.

2.2. #ImamsForShe : Sharia as a Source for Women's Rights (georganiseerd door *Muslims for Progressive Values*)

Moderator op dit side-event was mevrouw Ani Zonneveld, voorzitter en stichter van MPV. Als sprekers waren uitgenodigd imam Shamsi Ali, voorzitter van de Al-Hukmah Moskee in Astoria en *director* van het *Jamaica Muslim Center* in Queens, New York, en mevrouw Zainab Eyega, *executive director* van het *Sautu Yetu Center for African Women and Families*.

#ImamsForShe is een initiatief gelanceerd door de organisatie *Muslims for Progressive Values* (MPV), in navolging van de campagne #HeForShe van de *UN Women*. De bedoeling is imams, moslimleiders en Islamgeleerden te ondersteunen die actief ijveren voor vrouwenrechten, de *empowerment* van vrouwen en gendergelijkheid.

Een terugkerende vaststelling was dat veel vrouwen, bijvoorbeeld door een laag opleidingsniveau, slecht op de hoogte zijn van de rechten die de Sharia hun geeft. Veel van hun kennis steunt vaak eerder op culturele gebruiken, die echter niet noodzakelijk overeenstemmen met wat de Koran stelt.

3. Over geweld (geweld tegen vrouwen, vrouwen en gewapende conflicten en jonge meisjes)

3.1. Women's rights at the crossroads of economic and sexual exploitation : Beijing+20 and prostitution (georganiseerd door de *European Women's Lobby*, de *Conseil des femmes francophones de*

de ce phénomène est en partie systémique. Il n'existe pour ainsi dire aucune stratégie nationale en matière de handicap, les personnes handicapées ne sont pas suffisamment associées à la politique, le soutien financier est insuffisant, etc. De plus, beaucoup de pays n'ont pas de données fiables sur ce groupe cible.

Mme Ekaete Judith Umoh a souligné que les programmes de réduction de la pauvreté ne sont généralement pas spécifiquement axés sur les femmes souffrant d'un handicap. Il faut accorder davantage d'attention aux femmes concernées qui doivent se voir offrir toutes les chances de s'épanouir au sein de la société. Mme Venus Ilagan a déclaré avoir conscience que la réalisation des droits des femmes souffrant d'un handicap n'est pas pour demain. Mais il ne faut pas attendre encore vingt ans pour que ces droits soient enfin respectés.

2.2. #ImamsForShe : Sharia as a Source for Women's Rights (organisé par *Muslims for Progressive Values*)

La modératrice de cet événement off était Mme Ani Zonneveld, présidente et fondatrice de MPV. Les orateurs invités étaient l'imam Shamsi Ali, président de la mosquée Al-Hukmah d'Astoria et directeur du *Jamaica Muslim Center* à Queens, New York, ainsi que Mme Zainab Eyega, directrice exécutive du *Sautu Yetu Center for African Women and Families*.

#ImamsForShe est une initiative qui a été lancée par l'organisation *Muslims for Progressive Values* (MPV), dans le sillage de la campagne #HeForShe d'ONU Femmes. Le but de cette initiative est de soutenir les imams, dirigeants musulmans et islamologues qui soutiennent activement les droits des femmes, l'autonomisation des femmes et l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes.

Un constat récurrent est que beaucoup de femmes, par exemple à cause de leur faible niveau de scolarisation, connaissent mal les droits que la Sharia leur confère. Une grande partie de leurs connaissances reposent plutôt sur des traditions culturelles qui ne correspondent pas nécessairement à ce que dit le Coran.

3. Concernant la violence (la violence à l'égard des femmes, les femmes et les conflits armés, les petites filles)

3.1. Women's rights at the crossroads of economic and sexual exploitation : Beijing+20 and prostitution (organisé par le *Lobby européen des femmes*, le *Conseil des femmes francophones de*

Belgique, Swedish Women's Lobby, National Alliance of Women's Organisations UK, CATW-Asia Pacific, CAP International en Equality now) :

Het panel bestond uit mevrouw Isabelle Simonis, minister van de Franse Gemeenschap bevoegd voor het Onderwijs voor Sociale Promotie, Jeugd, Vrouwenrechten en Gelijke Kansen ; de heer Gavind Shuker, *MP, Chair of the All Party Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade, UK* ; mevrouw Zita Gurmai, voorzitter van *PES Women, Hongarije* ; de heer Jean Enriquez, *executive director, CATW-Asia Pacific* ; mevrouw Esohe Aghatise, *Consulting Trafficking Programmes Manager, Equality Now* en mevrouw Beatriz Sagrado, *Medicos del Mundo, Spanje*.

Eén van de strategische doeleinden van het Actieplatform van Peking inzake het geweld tegen vrouwen, betreft de eliminatie van vrouwenhandel en de begeleiding van slachtoffers van prostitutie en mensenhandel. In Europa wordt de afschaffing van prostitutie door voorstanders gezien als een manier om vrouwen en meisjes te beschermen, de mentaliteit inzake gelijkheid te veranderen en een einde te stellen aan de straffeloosheid van mensenhandelaars en uitbuiters. De realiteit van prostitutie in de verschillende continenten toont dat de rechten van vrouwen en meisjes rechtstreeks beïnvloed worden door de globale uitdagingen van het Peking Actieplatform. Zij vormen ook de basis voor de post-2015 discussie.

Dit *side event* was erop gericht verschillende ervaringen uit verschillende continenten samen te brengen. Ook wou het zowel het uitgangspunt van beleidsmakers als van het middenveld aan bod brengen.

3.2. *Preventing and responding to violence against women* (georganiseerd door de *World Health Organization* (WHO) en het *Global Women Institute* (GWI))

De sprekers waren de heer Michael Flood van Wollongong University in Australië, mevrouw Peggie Ramaphane van de organisatie *Women Against Rape* in Botswana, mevrouw Christina Pallitto van de *World Health Organization* en mevrouw Mary Ellsberg, directeur van het *Global Women's Institute* aan de George Washington University.

Dit *side event* vloeit voort uit een recente speciale reeks van « *the Lancet* » over « *Violence against Women and Girls* », waarvan de WHO co-auteur is.

Belgique, le lobby suédois des femmes, la « *National Alliance of Women's Organisations UK* », *CATW-Asia Pacific*, *CAP International* et *Equality now*) :

Le panel se composait de Mme Isabelle Simonis, ministre de la Communauté française chargée de l'Enseignement de promotion sociale, de la Jeunesse, des Droits des femmes et de l'Égalité des chances ; M. Gavind Shuker, parlementaire, président du « *All Party Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade* », Royaume-Uni ; Mme Zita Gurmai, présidente de *PES Women*, Hongrie ; M. Jean Enriquez, directeur exécutif de *CATW-Asia Pacific* ; Mme Esohe Aghatise, *Consulting Trafficking Programmes Manager, Equality Now* et Mme Beatriz Sagrado, *Medicos del Mundo*, Espagne.

Un des objectifs stratégiques de la Plateforme d'action de Pékin en ce qui concerne la violence à l'égard des femmes est la suppression de la traite des femmes et l'accompagnement des victimes de la prostitution et de la traite des êtres humains. En Europe, la suppression de la prostitution est considérée par ses partisans comme une manière de protéger les femmes et les fillettes, de faire changer les mentalités sur la question de l'égalité et de mettre fin à l'impunité des trafiquants d'êtres humains et des exploiters. La réalité de la prostitution sur les divers continents montre que les droits des femmes et des fillettes sont directement influencés par les défis globaux de la Plateforme d'action de Pékin. Ils constituent aussi la base de la discussion post-2015.

Cet événement *off* visait à réunir diverses expériences accumulées sur les différents continents. L'idée était d'aborder tant le point de vue des décideurs politiques que celui de la société civile.

3.2. *Preventing and responding to violence against women* (organisé par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) et par le *Global Women Institute* (GWI))

Les orateurs étaient M. Michael Flood de la Wollongong University en Australie, Mme Peggie Ramaphane de l'organisation *Women Against Rape* au Botswana, Mme Christina Pallitto de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et Mme Mary Ellsberg, directrice du *Global Women's Institute* de la George Washington University.

Cet événement *off* découle d'une récente série spéciale du « *Lancet* » consacrée à la violence faite aux femmes et aux fillettes, dont l'OMS est coauteur.

Het panel legde uit hoe geweld tegen vrouwen en meisjes nog steeds een obstakel blijft in het bereiken van de doelstellingen van het Actieplatform van Peking. Onder andere werd in de presentaties de nadruk gelegd op de noodzaak om meer data en bewijzen te verzamelen over wat echt werkt in de preventie van geweld tegen vrouwen en meisjes, en op het belang om mannen en jongens actief te betrekken. Ook is het nodig de gezondheidssector actief te betrekken in een multi-sectoraal antwoord op geweld tegen vrouwen en meisjes, net zoals het middenveld en de beleidsmakers acties moeten promoten inzake de preventie van en de reactie op geweld tegen vrouwen en meisjes. Iedereen was het erover eens dat multi-sectorale, evidence-based instrumenten en strategieën nodig zijn om geweld tegen vrouwen en meisjes terug te dringen.

3.3. *Violence in the digital age : new approaches to cyber-abuse of girls and young women* (georganiseerd door de Permanente Missie van Canada bij de UN)

en

3.4. *How Women and Girls' Voices are Silenced. Gender-based discrimination online* (georganiseerd door de Permanente Vertegenwoordiging van het Verenigd Koninkrijk en Denemarken bij de Verenigde Naties)

Het panel van de side event « *Violence in the digital age* » bestond uit mevrouw Kellie Leitch, *minister for the Status of Women*, Canada ; mevrouw Nive Sharat Chandran, Co-President, *YWCA of Aotearoa*/Nieuw Zeeland ; de heer Glenn Canning, Canada ; mevrouw Dianne Woloschuk, *President, Canadian Teachers Federation* ; mevrouw Cara Gleeson, *Project Manager, Our Watch*, Australië ; de heer John Weigelt, *National Technology Officer*, Microsoft Canada en mevrouw Mrinalini Rao, *Postdoctoral Research Associate of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence*. Moderator was mevrouw Paulette Senior, CEO, YWCA Canada.

Voor het side event « *How Women and Girls' Voices are Silenced* » bestond het panel uit de heer Manu Sareen, Deens minister bevoegd voor Kinderen, Gendergelijkheid, Integratie en Sociale Zaken ; mevrouw Helene Reardon Bond, *Head of UK Women's National Machinery* ; mevrouw Laura Higgins, *UK Safer Internet*

Le panel a expliqué en quoi la violence faite aux femmes et aux fillettes demeure encore un obstacle sur le chemin de la réalisation des objectifs de la Plateforme de Pékin. Les présentations ont mis l'accent notamment sur la nécessité de récolter davantage de données et de preuves concernant ce qui fonctionne vraiment dans la prévention de la violence faite aux femmes et aux fillettes, et sur l'importance d'y associer activement les hommes et les jeunes garçons. Il est aussi nécessaire d'associer activement le secteur de la santé à une réponse multisectorielle à la violence faite aux femmes, au même titre que la société civile et les décideurs politiques doivent promouvoir des actions de prévention et en réaction à la violence faite aux femmes et aux fillettes. Tout le monde s'accordait à dire que des stratégies et des instruments factuels multisectoriels sont nécessaires pour faire reculer la violence à l'égard des femmes et des fillettes.

3.3. *Violence in the digital age : new approaches to cyber-abuse of girls and young women* (organisé par la Mission permanente du Canada auprès des Nations unies)

et

3.4. *How Women and Girls' Voices are Silenced. Gender-based discrimination online* (organisé par les Missions permanentes du Royaume-Uni et du Danemark auprès des Nations unies)

Le groupe de discussion de l'événement parallèle « *Violence in the digital age* » était constitué de Mme Kellie Leitch, ministre canadienne de la Condition féminine ; Mme Nive Sharat Chandran, vice-présidente de la *YWCA of Aotearoa*/Nouvelle Zélande ; M. Glenn Canning, Canada ; Mme Dianne Woloschuk, présidente de la Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants ; Mme Cara Gleeson, gestionnaire de projet, *Our Watch*, Australie ; M. John Weigelt, *National Technology Officer*, Microsoft, Canada, et Mme Mrinalini Rao, *Postdoctoral Research Associate au Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence*. La modératrice était Mme Paulette Senior, directrice générale de la YWCA Canada.

Le groupe de discussion de l'événement parallèle « *How Women and Girls' Voices are Silenced* » était pour sa part constitué de M. Manu Sareen, ministre danois de l'Enfance, de l'Égalité des chances, de l'Intégration et des Affaires sociales ; Mme Helene Reardon Bond, *Head of UK Women's National Machinery* ;

Centre en professor Kenneth Reinicke, *Departement of Society and Globalization, Roskilde University, Denemarken*.

Beide *side events* behandelden het fenomeen van het *online* geweld, meer specifiek het *online* geweld tegen vrouwen en meisjes. Dit is een relatief nieuw gegeven en het bevindt zich daarom ook niet als aandachtspunt in het Actieplatform van Peking. Jammer genoeg kent dit type van geweld en pestgedrag de laatste jaren een enorme stijging en lijkt het enkel nog toe te nemen. Meisjes en jonge vrouwen kunnen vierentwintig uur op vierentwintig het slachtoffer worden van deze nieuwe geweldsvorm, die hen bovendien overal kan achtervolgen : in hun privé-, hun sociale en hun professionele leven.

Online geweld treft zowel vrouwen als mannen. Dit probleem kan wel degelijk ook als gendergerelateerd geweld gezien worden vermits uit onderzoek blijkt dat vrouwen vaker slachtoffer zijn, er angstiger door worden en meer geneigd zijn hun gedrag aan te passen ten gevolge ervan. Ook de manier waarop vrouwen en mannen online gepest worden verschilt : vrouwen worden vaker het slachtoffer van seksueel getint commentaar en worden bedreigd met verkrachting omdat ze vrouw zijn. Online geweld is op korte tijd een zeer machtig instrument geworden. Zo kunnen bijvoorbeeld seksuele beelden, echt of gefotoshopt, gebruikt worden om slachtoffers te bedreigen en te censureren.

Er zijn al een heel aantal zelfmoorden, vooral bij jonge vrouwen, direct gerelateerd met online pestgedrag. Mevrouw Laura Higgins, *UK Safer Internet Centre*, werkt samen met internetfirma's rond de bewustwording over het probleem. Steeds vaker worden internetpesters vervolgd door de politie, wat een goede zaak is. De heer Glenn Canning is de vader van Rehtaeh Parsons. Zijn dochter pleegde op zeventienjarige leeftijd zelfmoord nadat haar verkrachters een foto van de gewelddaad online hadden gepost en gedeeld in ruime kring. Hij werkt nu rond meer bewustwording inzake online pestgedrag en geweld tegen vrouwen.

Professor Kenneth Reinicke meent dat de oplossing van het probleem ook bij mannen moet gezocht worden. Veel mannen zien seksueel getinte opmerkingen aan het adres van vrouwen niet als een probleem of als seksuele

Mme Laura Higgins, *UK Safer Internet Centre*, et M. Kenneth Reinicke, professeur, *Departement of Society and Globalization, Roskilde University, Danemark*.

Ces deux événements parallèles traitaient du phénomène de la violence en ligne, en particulier celle à l'égard des femmes et des filles. Il s'agit d'un phénomène relativement récent, qui ne constitue dès lors pas un point d'attention dans la Plateforme d'action de Pékin. Malheureusement, ce type de violence et de harcèlement a connu une forte recrudescence ces dernières années et semble augmenter encore et toujours. Les filles et les jeunes femmes peuvent être victimes vingt-quatre heures sur vingt-quatre de cette nouvelle forme de violence, qui peut par ailleurs les poursuivre partout, dans leur vie privée comme dans leur vie sociale et professionnelle.

La violence en ligne concerne aussi bien les femmes que les hommes. Ce phénomène peut cependant bel et bien être considéré comme une forme de violence sexiste, car des études indiquent que les femmes en sont plus souvent victimes que les hommes, qu'elles en souffrent davantage en termes d'anxiété et qu'elles sont plus enclines à adapter leur comportement en conséquence. La manière dont les femmes et les hommes sont harcelés en ligne diffère également : les femmes doivent plus souvent essuyer des commentaires à connotation sexuelle et le simple fait d'être une femme leur vaut des menaces de viol. En peu de temps, la violence en ligne est devenue une arme redoutable. Des images à caractère sexuel, authentiques ou retravaillées à l'aide d'un logiciel de retouche d'image, peuvent par exemple être utilisées pour menacer ou censurer des victimes.

On peut déjà déplorer un grand nombre de suicides, en particulier de jeunes femmes, directement liés à des faits de harcèlement en ligne. Mme Laura Higgins, de l'*UK Safer Internet Centre*, œuvre à la sensibilisation à ce problème en collaboration avec des sociétés Internet. Des poursuites sont de plus en plus souvent intentées par la police pour des faits de harcèlement en ligne, ce qui est une bonne chose. M. Glenn Canning est le père de Rehtaeh Parsons, une jeune fille qui s'est suicidée à l'âge de dix-sept ans après que ses violeurs ont mis en ligne et diffusé à un large cercle une photo de leur méfait. Il œuvre à présent à la sensibilisation au harcèlement en ligne et à la violence à l'égard des femmes.

Le professeur Kenneth Reinicke estime que la solution au problème doit également être recherchée auprès des hommes. Nombreux sont les hommes qui ne considèrent pas les remarques à connotation sexuelle faites

intimidatie. Vaak aanvaardt onze cultuur ook dat mannelijkheid gepaard gaat met een zekere graad van seksuele intimidatie. Dit gedrag en de aanvaarding ervan door onze cultuur wijzigen zal ongetwijfeld moeilijk zijn.

3.5. *What would the UN Peace Operations Panel Recommend if Women were leading it ?* (georganiseerd door *Nonviolent Peaceforce*, *New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women* (NZFGW), *Women Graduates-USA*, *Women International Civil Society Action* (ICAN) en de *International Federation of University Women*)

Aan dit event namen volgende sprekers deel : mevrouw Rae Duff, NZFGW en IFUW ; mevrouw Justine Kwachu Ngum Kumche, *executive director of Women in Alternative Action*, Kameroen ; mevrouw Seconde Nyanzobe en de heer Christian Ngendahimana van *Fontaine-ISOKO* in *Burundi* ; mevrouw Genevieve Jeanne Therese Michel, *ProFin*, *Digicel Haiti Foundation* en de *YWCA-HAITI* ; mevrouw Mary Akrami, *Chair, Afghan Womens' Network* en mevrouw Tiffany Easthom, *Nonviolent Peaceforce Country Director* in Zuid Sudan. Mevrouw Sanam Anderlini (*co-founder of ICAN*) modereerde.

Dat *side-event* focuste vooral op het thema « vrouwen en gewapende conflicten », meer bepaald de strategische doeleinden E1 (het verhogen van de participatie van vrouwen op beslissingsniveau in conflictoplossing en de bescherming van vrouwen die leven in een conflictsituatie), E2 (de reductie van militaire uitgaven en de controle van de beschikbaarheid van wapens), E3 (de promotie van niet-gewelddadige vormen van conflictoplossing en de afname van de schending van de mensenrechten in conflictsituaties) en E5 (het zorgen voor bescherming, hulp, en training van gevluchte vrouwen), alsook VN-resolutie 1325 over vrouwen en gewapende conflicten.

In het najaar van 2014 werd in de schoot van de VN een *High Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations* opgericht. Dit Panel heeft als taak een doorlichting te maken van de huidige vredesmissies van de VN en de toekomstige noden in te schatten. Er werd aangeklaagd dat het panel bijzonder weinig vrouwen aan boord heeft, wat aantoonde dat het bewaren van vrede nog voornamelijk als een mannelijke activiteit wordt beschouwd. Dit werd gezien als een illustratie van het feit dat, alhoewel de VN in strategische doeleinden en in resolutie 1325 erkent dat vrouwen ook op beslissingsniveau

aux femmes comme un problème ou une intimidation sexuelle. Dans notre culture, la masculinité est aussi souvent acceptée comme allant de pair avec un certain degré d'intimidation sexuelle. Il ne sera certainement pas aisé de changer de tels comportements ni leur acceptation dans notre culture.

3.5. *What would the UN Peace Operations Panel Recommend if Women were leading it ?* (organisé par la *Nonviolent Peaceforce*, *New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women* (NZFGW), *Women Graduates-USA*, *Women International Civil Society Action* (ICAN) et la *International Federation of University Women*)

Ont participé à cet événement : Mme Rae Duff, NZFGW et IFUW ; Mme Justine Kwachu Ngum Kumche, *executive director of Women in Alternative Action*, Cameroun ; Mme Seconde Nyanzobe et M. Christian Ngendahimana de *Fontaine-ISOKO*, *Burundi* ; Mme Geneviève Jeanne Thérèse Michel, *ProFin*, *Digicel Haiti Foundation* et la *YWCA-HAITI* ; Mme Mary Akrami, présidente, *Afghan Womens' Network* et Mme Tiffany Easthom, *Nonviolent Peaceforce Country Director*, Sud-Soudan. Mme Sanam Anderlini (cofondatrice de l'ICAN) était la modératrice du débat.

Cet événement parallèle était centré sur le thème « Femmes et conflits armés », en particulier sur les objectifs stratégiques E1 (élargir la participation des femmes au règlement des conflits au niveau de la prise de décision et protéger les femmes vivant dans les situations de conflits armés et autres sous occupation étrangère), E2 (réduire les dépenses militaires excessives et contrôler la disponibilité des armements), E3 (promouvoir des formes non violentes de règlement des conflits et réduire les violations des droits fondamentaux dans les situations de conflit) et E5 (fournir protection, assistance et formation aux réfugiées) ainsi que sur la résolution 1325 des Nations unies sur les femmes et les conflits armés.

À l'automne 2014, un Groupe indépendant de haut niveau chargé d'étudier les opérations de maintien de la paix a été créé auprès des Nations unies. Ce panel a pour tâche de procéder à une évaluation des missions de paix actuelles des Nations unies et à une estimation des besoins futurs. Des voix se sont élevées pour dénoncer le nombre particulièrement faible de femmes au sein de ce Groupe de haut niveau, ce qui montre que dans les esprits, le maintien de la paix reste essentiellement l'affaire des hommes. Ainsi, bien qu'elles accordent de l'importance, dans les objectifs stratégiques et dans la

moeten betrokken worden bij vredesprocessen, de VN dit zelf nog niet in de praktijk omzet.

Tenslotte werd aan de hand van getuigenissen van experten afkomstig uit landen die betrokken waren bij vredesmissies van de VN (Burundi, Afghanistan en Kameroen), nagegaan hoe de werking van de vredesmissies en hun samenwerking met de lokale gemeenschap, inzonderheid met vrouwen, kan verbeterd worden. Volgens sprekers zouden mogelijke oplossingen kunnen zijn : het inhuren van een genderexpert uit de lokale bevolking, het instellen van een rechtstreeks communicatiekanaal tussen de lokale bevolking en het beslissingsniveau van de vredesmissie, een betere samenwerking met de lokale gemeenschap en vooral de lokale vrouwenorganisaties, de aanwezigheid van meer vrouwen in de vredesmissies, en een assessment van de lokale context voorafgaand aan de vredesmissie, waarbij vrouwen en de lokale gemeenschap betrokken worden.

3.6. *Women Fighting extremism : in God's name ? The role of the CEDAW* (georganiseerd door de Permanente Vertegenwoordiging van Frankrijk bij de VN met de ondersteuning van de CEDAW en van de hoge commissaris voor de Rechten van de Mens)

Aan dit event namen deel : mevrouw Nicole Ameline, gewezen voorzitter van CEDAW en gewezen Frans minister voor Gelijkheid en Gelijke Kansen ; mevrouw Pascale Boistard, Frans staatssecretaris voor de Rechten van de vrouw en mevrouw Lucy Freeman, Amnesty international. Het gesprek werd gemodereerd door de heer Moez Doraid, *director of UN Women*.

Het panel besprak hoe diverse vormen van extremisme een invloed hebben op en beïnvloed worden door vrouwen en meisjes. Het onderzocht ook hoe een antwoord kan gegeven worden door CEDAW. In het bijzonder werd nagegaan welke rol vrouwen kunnen spelen bij de preventie van en de strijd tegen extremisme, werd het extremisme als een nieuwe vorm van geweld tegen vrouwen en meisjes onderzocht en werd gekeken naar de deelname van vrouwen aan extremisme als sympathisanten, supporters en daders.

résolution 1325, à l'implication des femmes dans les processus de paix, y compris au niveau décisionnel, les Nations unies ne sont même pas encore parvenues à concrétiser cela dans la pratique.

Enfin, à la lumière de témoignages d'experts originaires de pays ayant joué un rôle dans les missions de paix des Nations unies (Burundi, Afghanistan et Cameroun), on a examiné s'il était possible d'améliorer le fonctionnement des missions de paix et leur collaboration avec la communauté locale et, en particulier, les femmes. Des orateurs ont avancé des pistes de solutions : le recours à un expert en matière de genre issu de la population locale, la mise en place d'un canal de communication direct entre la population locale et les instances décisionnelles de la mission de paix, l'amélioration de la collaboration avec la communauté locale et surtout avec les organisations locales de femmes, le renforcement de la présence des femmes dans les missions de paix et la réalisation d'un audit du contexte local préalablement au lancement de la mission de paix et avec la participation des femmes et de la communauté locale.

3.6. *Women Fighting extremism : in God's name ? The role of the CEDAW* (organisé par la Mission permanente de la France auprès des Nations unies, avec le soutien de la CEDAW et du haut commissariat des Nations unies aux droits de l'homme)

Ont participé à cet événement : Mme Nicole Ameline, ancienne présidente de la CEDAW et ancienne ministre française de la Parité et de l'Égalité professionnelle ; Mme Pascale Boistard, secrétaire d'État française aux Droits de la femme et Mme Lucy Freeman, Amnesty international. Le modérateur du débat était M. Moez Doraid, directeur d'ONU Femmes.

La discussion a porté sur la manière dont diverses formes d'extrémisme ont une influence sur les femmes et les filles et sont influencées par elles. L'objectif était aussi de voir quelle réponse la CEDAW peut apporter en l'espèce. L'occasion a aussi été mise à profit pour examiner le rôle que les femmes peuvent jouer dans le cadre de la prévention de l'extrémisme et de la lutte contre celui-ci, pour analyser le phénomène de l'extrémisme en tant que nouvelle forme de violence envers les femmes et les filles et pour voir dans quelle mesure les femmes contribuent à renforcer l'extrémisme en tant que sympathisantes, supportrices et actrices.

3.7. *Gender stereotypes and Sexism – Root Causes of Discrimination and Violence against Women* (georganiseerd door de Raad van Europa en de Permanente Vertegenwoordiging van België bij de VN)

Het debat werd voorgezeten door de heer Sergiy Kyslytsya, *Chairperson, Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe, Deputy Foreign minister of Ukraine*. Mevrouw Marja Ruotanen, *directeur Human Dignity and Equality* van de Raad van Europa was moderator. Sprekers waren mevrouw Nanette Braun, *Chief Communications and Advocacy, UN Women*; de heer Ted Bunch, *co-founder and co-director* van de organisatie « *A call to men* » en mevrouw Isabelle Simonis, minister van de Franse Gemeenschap bevoegd voor het Onderwijs voor sociale promotie, Jeugd, Vrouwenrechten en Gelijke Kansen.

Iedereen gebruikt bewust of onbewust stereotyperingen. Genderstereotypering is een belangrijke oorzaak van discriminatie tegen vrouwen. Mevrouw Simonis meent dat het daarom belangrijk is stereotype beelden op te zoeken en jongeren ervan bewust te maken. Op die manier kan ertegen ingegaan worden. Zij wijst in dit opzicht naar de campagne « *Sexes et manuels* » en naar het project « *Girls day/Boys day* » dat informatie geeft over studierichtingen.

Mevrouw Nanette Braun sprak over de voorstelling van vrouwen in de media. Zij gebruikte hiervoor ter illustratie de Bechdel test, een test die fictie test op seksisme. Men slaagt voor de test wanneer minstens twee vrouwelijke personages met een naam over iets anders praten dan mannen. Meer dan de helft van de films slaagt echter niet op dit eenvoudige criterium. Uit onderzoek van het *Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media* blijkt dat vrouwen in films vaak leerkrachten, verpleegsters of assistentes zijn en dubbel zoveel naakt tonen als mannelijke personages. Jongens die veel TV kijken blijken een positiever zelfbeeld te ontwikkelen, terwijl dat voor meisjes net omgekeerd is.

De heer Ted Bunch wil mannen bewust maken van gender stereotypering en genderongelijkheid. Vaders zeggen vaak tegen hun zonen dat ze een bal niet moeten gooien « als een meisje » en zich moeten gedragen « als een man ». Dit leidt ertoe dat vrouwen en meisjes impliciet als een zwak slachtoffer voorgesteld worden en vrouwen door hun partner worden gezien als een « bezit ». Door dit sociaal proces zitten mannen vast in

3.7. *Gender stereotypes and Sexism – Root Causes of Discrimination and Violence against Women* (organisé par le Conseil de l'Europe et la Mission permanente de la Belgique après des Nations unies)

La discussion a été présidée par M. Sergiy Kyslytsya, président de la commission du Conseil de l'Europe pour l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes et vice-ministre ukrainien des Affaires étrangères. La modératrice était Mme Marja Ruotanen, directrice de la direction « Dignité humaine et Égalité » au Conseil de l'Europe. Les intervenants étaient : Mme Nanette Braun, responsable Communications et Sensibilisation, ONU Femmes ; M. Ted Bunch, cofondateur et codirecteur de l'organisation « *A call to men* », et Mme Isabelle Simonis, ministre de la Communauté française en charge de l'Enseignement de promotion sociale, de la Jeunesse, des Droits des femmes et de l'Égalité des chances.

Tout le monde utilise, consciemment ou inconsciemment, des stéréotypes. Les stéréotypes de genre constituent une importante source de discriminations à l'égard des femmes. Mme Simonis estime qu'il est dès lors important d'identifier les stéréotypes existants et d'y sensibiliser les jeunes. On peut ainsi lutter contre ces stéréotypes. L'intervenante fait référence à cet égard à la campagne « *Sexes & manuels* » et au projet « *Girls day/Boys day* » qui donne des informations sur les filières d'études.

Mme Nanette Braun a parlé de la manière dont les femmes sont représentées dans les médias. À ce sujet, elle a utilisé, en guise d'illustration, le test de Bechdel, qui évalue le caractère sexiste des productions de fiction. Une production réussit le test lorsqu'elle met en scène au moins deux personnages féminins qui portent un nom et qui parlent d'autre chose que d'un homme. Plus de la moitié des films ne satisfont pas à ce simple critère. Il ressort d'une étude du *Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media* que les femmes dans les films sont souvent enseignantes, infirmières ou assistantes et qu'elles sont montrées nues deux fois plus que les personnages masculins. Les garçons qui regardent beaucoup la télévision développent une image plus positive d'eux-mêmes, tandis que c'est le contraire qui se passe pour les filles.

M. Ted Bunch veut sensibiliser les hommes aux stéréotypes de genre et aux inégalités entre les sexes. Les pères disent souvent à leurs fils qu'ils ne doivent pas lancer la balle « comme une fille » ou qu'ils doivent se comporter « comme un homme ». Il en résulte que les filles et les femmes sont implicitement présentées comme de faibles victimes et que les femmes sont considérées par leur partenaire comme leur « propriété ». Les

dit patroon. De bevrijding van mannen uit dit patroon is rechtstreeks verbonden met de bevrijding van vrouwen. Het is nodig mannen te laten inzien dat wanneer zij zich liefdevol en respectvol gedragen, vrouwen zich gewaardeerd voelen en veilig zijn.

3.8. *The European Experience : Using Gender mainstreaming in Preventing Violence against Women* (georganiseerd door *The Office of the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud in Norway, The Secretariat of the Shelter Movement in Norway en EEA Grants*)

Dit debat werd gemodereerd door de dames Rachel Eapen Paul and Lene Nilsen. De sprekers waren mevrouw Lone Alice Johansen, *head of information, Secretariat of the Shelter Movement in Norway*; mevrouw Lesley Ann Foster, *director, Masimanyane Women's Support Centre, East London, South Africa*; mevrouw Gertrud Åström, *president of the Swedish Women's Lobby*; mevrouw Carmen Plaza Martin, *director general, Women's Institute and for Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, Spain*, en mevrouw Sunniva Ørstavik, *the Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud of Norway*. De *key notes* werden gebracht door mevrouw Rashida Manjoo, *UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Professor at University of Cape Town*, rond het thema « *State responsibility to prevent gender related killing of women and girls* », en door mevrouw Sylvia Walby, *distinguished professor of Sociology and UNESCO Chair in Gender Research, Department of Sociology, Lancaster University*, rond het thema « *Using gender mainstreaming in the prevention of violence against women : Potentials and Pitfalls* ».

Het actieplatform van Peking voorziet in het gebruik van gendermainstreaming als een manier om gendergelijkheid te bereiken. Samen met de implementatie van genderspecifieke acties moet de integratie van een genderperspectief in alle beleidsdomeinen ervoor zorgen dat beslissingen gelijkelijk ten goede komen van vrouwen en mannen.

Mevrouw Rashida Manjoo verwijst naar haar rapport « *20 years of normativity without legality* » om aan de kaak te stellen dat er wel grote verklaringen bestaan over geweld tegen vrouwen, maar dat deze wettelijk niet bindend zijn. Het gaat om « *soft-law* ». De afgelopen twee decennia is het geweld tegen vrouwen niet afgenomen en staten moeten daarom met due diligence handelen om geweld te bannen. Het is niet enkel hun verantwoordelijkheid om te voorzien in een wettelijk bindend kader, maar bijvoorbeeld ook om preventief te

hommes tendent socialement à être emprisonnés dans ce schéma. L'affranchissement des hommes de ce schéma est directement lié à l'affranchissement des femmes. Il est nécessaire de faire comprendre aux hommes que lorsqu'ils se comportent avec amour et respect, les femmes se sentent appréciées et sécurisées.

3.8. *The European Experience : Using Gender mainstreaming in Preventing Violence against Women* (organisé par l'*Office of the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud de Norvège, le Secretariat of the Shelter Movement de Norvège et EEA Grants*)

Les modératrices de cette discussion étaient Mme Rachel Eapen Paul et Lene Nilsen. Les intervenants étaient : Mme Lone Alice Johansen, chef de l'information, *Secretariat of the Shelter Movement, Norvège*; Mme Lesley Ann Foster, directrice, *Masimanyane Women's Support Centre, East London, Afrique du Sud*; Mme Gertrud Åström, présidente, *Swedish Women's Lobby*; Mme Carmen Plaza Martin, directrice générale du *Women's Institute and for Equal Opportunities*, ministre de la Santé, des Services sociaux et de l'Égalité de l'Espagne, et Mme Sunniva Ørstavik, *Equality and Anti-discrimination Ombud, Norvège*. Les discours d'ouverture ont été prononcés par Mme Rashida Manjoo, rapporteuse spéciale des Nations unies chargée de la question de la violence contre les femmes et professeur à l'Université de Cape Town, sur le thème « *State responsibility to prevent gender related killing of women and girls* », et par Mme Sylvia Walby, *distinguished professor* de sociologie et titulaire de la chaire UNESCO de recherche sur le genre à l'Université de Lancaster, sur le thème « *Using gender mainstreaming in the prevention of violence against women : Potentials and Pitfalls* ».

La Plateforme d'action de Pékin voit en l'intégration de la dimension du genre un moyen de parvenir à l'égalité des genres. L'intégration de la dimension du genre dans tous les domaines politiques, associée à la mise en œuvre d'actions liées au genre, doit faire en sorte que les décisions prises bénéficient autant aux femmes qu'aux hommes.

Mme Rashida Manjoo se réfère à son rapport intitulé « *20 years of normativity without legality* » pour dénoncer le fait que les grandes déclarations qui existent concernant la violence faite aux femmes ne sont pas juridiquement contraignantes. En l'occurrence, il s'agit seulement de règles non contraignantes, constituant un « droit mou » (« *soft law* »). Les violences faites aux femmes n'ayant pas diminué durant les deux dernières décennies, les États doivent agir avec diligence raisonnable pour éradiquer le phénomène. Il leur incombe non

werken en programma's te verzorgen die sterk de nadruk leggen op de promotie van de *empowerment* van vrouwen. Een holistische aanpak op individueel, structureel en institutioneel niveau is noodzakelijk.

Mevrouw Sylvia Walby wijst op het feit dat vrouwen geen 40 % uitmaken op het niveau van de beslissende organen. Ook dit zou een noodzakelijk onderdeel van gender mainstreaming moeten zijn. Zolang vrouwen niet aanwezig zijn op beslissingsniveau, zal de discriminatie van vrouwen doorgaan. Er is gender mainstreaming nodig op elk niveau, niet enkel bij de basis of in gespecialiseerde organen.

Volgens mevrouw Gertrud Åström kunnen attitudes in kleinere entiteiten, zoals een gemeente, aangepakt worden door niet enkel naar het individu te kijken, maar ook het structurele niveau te onderzoeken. Verder is zij voorstander van helder taalgebruik bij het aanpakken van problemen. Zij praat liever over geweld van mannen tegen vrouwen, dan over een mannelijkheidsproblematiek. Veel wettelijke classificaties zijn genderneutraal, maar dit helpt niet steeds om een specifieke problematiek als geweld tegen vrouwen aan te pakken.

4. Over instrumenten van gelijke kansen (vrouwen en besluitvorming, institutionele mechanismen om de promotie van de vrouw te stimuleren en vrouwen en fundamentele rechten)

4.1. Women in political leadership – achieving equality in political decision making (georganiseerd door de Permanente Vertegenwoordigingen van Algerije, Australië, Chili en Zwitserland bij de VN, in samenwerking met *UN Women* en de IPU)

Het panel bestond uit mevrouw Mounia Meslem Si Amer, minister van Nationale Solidariteit, Familie en de Status van de vrouw, Algerije ; mevrouw Michaelia Cash, *minister assisting the Prime minister for Women*, Australië ; mevrouw Claudia Pascual, *minister-director of the National Women's Service*, Chili ; mevrouw Corine Mauch, burgemeester van Zurich, Zwitserland ; mevrouw Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, *executive director, UN Women* ; en de heer Martin Chungong, secretaris-generaal van de Interparlementaire Unie. Het debat werd gemodereerd door de heer Benno Bättig, secretaris-generaal van het Federaal Departement van Buitenlandse Zaken, Zwitserland.

seulement de prévoir un cadre juridiquement contraignant, mais également de prendre des mesures préventives et de mettre sur pied des programmes qui mettent fortement l'accent sur la promotion de l'autonomisation des femmes. Une approche holistique s'impose au niveau tant individuel que structurel et institutionnel.

Mme Sylvia Walby souligne le fait que la représentation des femmes au niveau des organes décisionnels est inférieure à 40 %. Cet aspect devrait lui aussi faire partie intégrante de la politique d'intégration de la dimension du genre. Tant que les femmes seront absentes au niveau décisionnel, les discriminations dont elles font l'objet persisteront. L'intégration de la dimension du genre doit être mise en œuvre à tous les niveaux, et pas seulement au niveau de la base ou au sein d'organes spécialisés.

Selon Mme Gertrud Åström, on peut agir sur les attitudes adoptées au sein des entités de taille modérée, telles que les communes, en s'intéressant non seulement aux individus mais également au niveau structurel. Par ailleurs, l'intervenante est favorable à l'utilisation d'un langage clair dans la gestion des problèmes. Elle préfère par exemple parler de violences faites aux femmes par les hommes, plutôt que d'une problématique de la masculinité. De nombreuses classifications légales sont neutres du point de vue du genre, mais cela n'aide pas toujours à appréhender une problématique spécifique telle que la violence faite aux femmes.

4. Concernant les instruments en matière d'égalité des chances (les femmes et la prise de décision, mécanismes institutionnels visant à promouvoir la situation des femmes, les femmes et les droits fondamentaux)

4.1. Women in political leadership – achieving equality in political decision making (organisé par les Missions permanentes de l'Algérie, de l'Australie, du Chili et de la Suisse auprès des Nations unies, en collaboration avec ONU Femmes et l'UIP)

Le panel était composé de Mme Mounia Meslem Si Amer, ministre de la Solidarité nationale, de la Famille et de la Condition de la femme, Algérie ; Mme Michaelia Cash, ministre adjointe auprès du premier ministre pour les questions relatives aux femmes, Australie ; Mme Claudia Pascual, ministre-directrice du Service national de la femme, Chili ; Mme Corine Mauch, maire de Zurich, Suisse ; Mme Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, directrice exécutive, ONU femmes et M. Martin Chungong, secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire. Le modérateur du débat était M. Benno Bättig, secrétaire général du Département fédéral des Affaires étrangères, Suisse.

Het Actieplatform van Peking argumenteert dat de gelijke deelname van vrouwen aan het politieke leven een essentiële rol speelt in de verbetering van de rechten van de vrouwen. Uit de publicatie van de « *Women in Politics Map 2014* » door de VN blijkt dat er inderdaad vooruitgang is geboekt maar dat het glazen plafond voor vrouwen op beslissingsniveau nog steeds een zeer concreet gegeven is. Er is goed nieuws : het aandeel van vrouwen die een ministerportefeuille houden is tussen 2008 en 2014 gestegen van 16,1 % tot 17,2 % en vrouwen krijgen vaker harde bevoegdheden zoals defensie en buitenlandse zaken. Er is echter nog steeds veel werk aan de winkel en dit thema moet dus nog steeds hoog op de agenda blijven staan.

Dit event tracht een overzicht te geven van het belang van de aanwezigheid van vrouwen op hoog politiek niveau. Hun aanwezigheid op ministerieel niveau maakt deel uit van de *empowerment* van vrouwen, zorgt voor meer diversiteit bij het nemen van beslissingen in het algemeen en draagt bij tot meer aandacht voor de specifieke noden van vrouwen in het bijzonder.

Mevrouw Mounia Meslem Si Amer deelde mee dat er op concrete punten vooruitgang wordt gemaakt. De Algerijnse regering telt zeven vrouwen en er zijn wetten gestemd waardoor vrouwen alimentatie kunnen krijgen. Jammer genoeg staan weegt nog steeds een enorme sociale druk op vrouwen met verantwoordelijkheden. Niet enkel moeten ze bewijzen dat ze de job aankunnen, ze moeten beter zijn dan mannen.

Voor *UN Women* en de IPU is het belangrijk mannen op te voeden. Gelijkheid tussen vrouwen en mannen is evenzeer een mannenzaak. Ook de politieke partijen moeten er zich van bewust zijn dat het belangrijk is vrouwen en jongeren in ruime mate te betrekken bij hun werk.

4.2. *Empowering the Next Generation : Paving the Way for Young Women in Decision-making at all Levels* (georganiseerd door de Interparlementaire Unie en Ierland)

De voorzitter van dit event was de heer Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, Iers *minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality and Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with special responsibility for Equality, New Communities and Culture and Drugs Strategy*. De sprekers waren mevrouw Zeina Hilal, *Gender Partnership*

La Plateforme d'action de Pékin fait valoir que l'égalité de participation des femmes et des hommes à la vie politique contribue de manière essentielle à l'amélioration des droits de la femme. Il ressort de l'édition 2014 de la « *Carte des femmes en politique* », publiée par les Nations unies, que dans les faits, la participation des femmes à la vie politique progresse mais que les femmes se heurtent encore à des plafonds de verre au niveau décisionnel. Le point positif est que la proportion de femmes détenant un portefeuille ministériel est passée de 16,1 % à 17,2 % entre 2008 et 2014 et que les femmes ayant des attributions dites « dures », comme la Défense et les Affaires étrangères, sont aussi plus nombreuses. Il reste toutefois beaucoup de travail à accomplir et il faut donc continuer à consacrer à ce thème une attention prioritaire.

Cet événement vise à donner un aperçu de l'importance de la présence des femmes dans les hautes sphères politiques. Leur présence au niveau ministériel contribue à leur autonomisation, accroît la diversité dans le processus décisionnel global et met davantage en lumière les besoins spécifiques des femmes en particulier.

Mme Mounia Meslem Si Amer a indiqué qu'il y a des progrès notables sur certains points concrets. Le gouvernement algérien compte sept femmes et des lois sont votées en vue de permettre aux femmes de bénéficier de pensions alimentaires. Un point négatif est le fait qu'une pression sociale énorme continue à peser sur les femmes qui exercent des responsabilités. Elles doivent prouver non seulement qu'elles sont à la hauteur de la tâche mais aussi qu'elles peuvent l'accomplir plus efficacement que les hommes.

Selon ONU Femmes et l'UIP, il faut « éduquer » les hommes. L'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes est aussi l'affaire des hommes. Les partis politiques doivent également prendre conscience de l'importance d'impliquer plus largement les femmes et les jeunes dans leur travail.

4.2. *Empowering the Next Generation : Paving the Way for Young Women in Decision-making at all Levels* (organisé par l'Union interparlementaire et l'Irlande)

Cet événement a été présidé par M. Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, ministre irlandais adjoint au département de la Justice et de l'Égalité et des Arts, du Patrimoine et des Régions d'expression gaélique, chargé en particulier de l'Égalité, des Nouvelles communautés, de la Culture et de la Stratégie en matière de drogue. Ont pris la parole

Programme, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), mevrouw Rosaline Smith, parlements lid uit Sierra Leone ; mevrouw Zita Gurmai, parlements lid uit Hongarije en mevrouw Emma Newbury, Trócaire.

Mevrouw Zeina Hilal gaf toelichting bij het recente rapport van de IPU over de participatie van jongeren in nationale parlementen (« *Youth participation in national parliaments* »). In het verslag worden personen onder de vijfenveertig jaar beschouwd als « jonge parlementsleden », maar het verslag hanteert voor de eerste keer de leeftijden van dertig, veertig en vijfenveertig jaar om een meer gedetailleerde indeling te maken. Het verslag focust echter niet specifiek op jonge vrouwen maar geeft wel enkele algemene cijfers :

— in elke leeftijdscategorie zijn er meer mannelijke dan vrouwelijke parlementsleden ;

— de grootste kloof wordt vastgesteld tussen mannelijke parlementsleden ouder dan vijfenveertig en vrouwelijke parlementsleden jonger dan vijfenveertig. Dit kan erop wijzen dat jonge vrouwen dubbel benadeeld zijn vergeleken met parlementsleden met andere demografische profielen ;

— van de jongste parlementsleden wordt twee derde voor de eerste maal verkozen tussen de leeftijd van eenentwintig en dertig jaar. Hiervan zijn twee derde mannen en één derde vrouwen.

Mevrouw Rosaline Smith merkt op dat het parlement in Sierra Leone slechts 13,2 % vrouwen telt, alhoewel vrouwen 52 % van de bevolking uitmaken. Veel vrouwelijke parlementsleden komen bovendien in het parlement omdat ze deel uitmaken van een kapitaalkrachtige of politieke familie, voor vrouwen zonder dergelijk netwerk is het veel moeilijker.

Om het percentage te doen stijgen moeten om te beginnen politieke partijen een quotum van 30 % hanteren. Bovendien moeten vrouwen niet alleen vertegenwoordigd zijn in de wetgevende, maar ook in de uitvoerende en rechterlijke macht, bij de politie en in de academische wereld. Zo krijgen meisjes rolmodellen waar ze naar kunnen opkijken.

Er mag niet uit het oog verloren worden dat Sierra Leone factoren kent die het voor vrouwen extra moeilijk maken door te stoten. Zo kent het land nog een hoge moedersterfte. Bovendien maakt de huidige ebola-epidemie

Mme Zeina Hilal, programme de partenariat sur le genre, Union interparlementaire (UIP), Mme Rosaline Smith, parlementaire du Sierra Leone, Mme Zita Gurmai, parlementaire de Hongrie et Mme Emma Newbury, Trócaire.

Mme Zeina Hilal a commenté le récent rapport de l'UIP sur la participation des jeunes au sein des parlements nationaux (« *Youth participation in national parliaments* »). Bien que le rapport considère les personnes de moins de quarante-cinq ans comme des « jeunes parlementaires », il utilise aussi pour la première fois les âges de trente, quarante et quarante-cinq ans pour faire une ventilation plus détaillée. Si le rapport ne se concentre pas spécifiquement sur les jeunes femmes, il donne cependant quelques chiffres d'ordre général :

— il y a plus d'hommes que de femmes parlementaires au sein de chaque catégorie d'âge ;

— l'écart le plus marqué est constaté entre les hommes parlementaires âgés de plus de quarante-cinq ans et les femmes parlementaires âgées de moins de quarante-cinq ans, ce qui pourrait indiquer que les jeunes femmes sont doublement défavorisées par rapport aux parlementaires appartenant aux autres profils démographiques ;

— les deux tiers des jeunes parlementaires sont élus pour la première fois entre l'âge de vingt-et-un et de trente ans. L'on dénombre dans ce groupes deux tiers d'hommes et un tiers de femmes.

Mme Rosaline Smith fait remarquer que le parlement du Sierra Leone ne compte que 13,2 % de femmes, bien que les femmes représentent 52 % de la population. Beaucoup de femmes parlementaires siègent en outre au parlement en raison de leur appartenance à une famille riche ou politiquement influente ; les femmes qui ne disposent pas d'un tel réseau éprouvent beaucoup plus de difficultés à se faire élire.

En vue de faire augmenter ce pourcentage, il faut pour commencer que les partis politiques appliquent un quota de 30 %. De plus, les femmes doivent être représentées non seulement au sein du pouvoir législatif, mais aussi au sein du pouvoir exécutif, du pouvoir judiciaire, de la police et du monde académique. Les jeunes filles auront ainsi des modèles qui pourront les inspirer.

Il ne faut pas perdre de vue que la situation au Sierra Leone est aggravée par des facteurs qui ne font que rendre les choses plus difficiles pour les femmes. Le pays est ainsi confronté à un taux élevé de mortalité

veel vrouwelijke slachtoffers, niet alleen omdat vrouwen de voornaamste zorgverstrekkers zijn en dus vaker met zieken in aanraking komen, maar ook omdat zwangere vrouwen veel moeilijker blijken te genezen van de ziekte.

Voor mevrouw Zita Gurmai is het essentieel dat vrouwen in zichzelf geloven en zich niets aantrekken van het glazen plafond. Ze stelt vast dat, ondanks de aanwezigheid van wetgeving, nog geen enkel land gendergelijkheid heeft bereikt. Vrouwen moeten niet enkel rechten hebben, ze moeten ze ook in de praktijk kunnen brengen. Spreekster wijst op het belang om jonge mannen te overtuigen van de gelijkheid van mannen en vrouwen. Gendergelijkheid is geen vrouwenaangelegenheid, het is een maatschappelijke aangelegenheid. We moeten streven naar een maatschappij waar vrouwelijke participatie op alle niveaus de normaalste zaak van de wereld is.

Mevrouw Emma Newbury onderzocht voor de organisatie Trócaire gedurende een periode van drie jaar de participatie van vrouwen in Nicaragua, Congo en India. Het was de bedoeling meer inzicht te krijgen in de deelname van vrouwen in de maatschappij, hun deelname aan de macht en hun aandeel in het nemen van beslissingen. Verschillende regels hebben een invloed op de participatie van vrouwen, maar het blijkt het moeilijkst om deel te nemen aan de macht in sterk hiërarchisch gestructureerde maatschappijen met een smalle top, die meestal uit enkel mannen bestaat.

4.3. *Comment renforcer les partenariats entre les Parlements et la société civile afin de contribuer plus efficacement à la mise en œuvre des engagements internationaux relatifs aux droits des femmes ?* (georganiseerd door het Réseau des femmes de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie – Organisation internationale de la Francophonie)

Volgende sprekers namen deel aan dit *side event* : mevrouw Françoise Bertieaux, voorzitter van het Réseau des femmes parlementaires de la Francophonie, België ; mevrouw Ndioro Ndiaye, coordinatrice van het Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme ; mevrouw Justine Diffo, Réseau de soutien à la participation politique des femmes ; mevrouw Viviane Teitelbaum, voorzitter van de Lobby européen des femmes, België ; mevrouw Marlène Menoux, coordinatrice van Genre en Action ; mevrouw Nicole Ameline, voorzitter van het Comité CEDEF, Frankrijk.

liée à la maternité. De plus, l'épidémie d'ébola a fait de nombreuses victimes chez les femmes, d'une part, parce que les femmes sont les principales prestataires de soins et qu'elles entrent donc plus souvent en contact avec des personnes malades et, d'autre part, parce que les femmes enceintes guérissent beaucoup plus difficilement de la maladie.

Pour Mme Zita Gurmai, il est essentiel que les femmes croient en elles-mêmes et qu'elles ne se soucient pas du plafond de verre. Elle constate qu'en dépit de toutes les lois existantes, aucun pays n'a encore atteint l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes. Il ne suffit pas que les femmes aient des droits, elles doivent aussi pouvoir les exercer dans la vie courante. L'intervenante souligne combien il est important de convaincre les jeunes hommes de l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes. L'égalité des genres n'est pas un problème lié aux femmes, c'est une matière qui concerne la société tout entière. Nous devons tendre vers une société où la participation des femmes à tous les niveaux est la chose la plus normale du monde.

Mme Emma Newbury a étudié pendant une période de trois ans, pour le compte de l'organisation Trócaire, la participation des femmes au Nicaragua, au Congo et en Inde. Le but était d'avoir une vision plus claire de la participation des femmes dans la société, de leur participation au pouvoir et de leur rôle dans la prise de décision. Plusieurs règles ont une incidence sur la participation des femmes, mais la difficulté culmine lorsqu'il s'agit de participer au pouvoir dans des sociétés très hiérarchisées pilotées par un petit groupe généralement composé exclusivement d'hommes.

4.3. *Comment renforcer les partenariats entre les Parlements et la société civile afin de contribuer plus efficacement à la mise en œuvre des engagements internationaux relatifs aux droits des femmes ?* (organisé par le Réseau des femmes de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie – Organisation internationale de la Francophonie)

Les orateurs suivants ont pris la parole lors de cet événement *off* : Mme Françoise Bertieaux, présidente du Réseau des femmes parlementaires de la Francophonie, Belgique ; Mme Ndioro Ndiaye, coordinatrice du Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme ; Mme Justine Diffo, Réseau de soutien à la participation politique des femmes ; Mme Viviane Teitelbaum, présidente du Lobby européen des femmes, Belgique ; Mme Marlène Menoux, coordinatrice de Genre en Action ; Mme Nicole Ameline, présidente du Comité CEDEF, France.

In de strijd voor gendergelijkheid is een bijzondere rol en verantwoordelijkheid weggelegd voor parlementsleden, die moeten toezien op de uitvoering van de engagementen die de staten op zich hebben genomen. In de strijd voor de rechten van de vrouw is het bovendien essentieel om ook het middenveld actief te betrekken. Dit *side event* focuste op de noodzakelijke samenwerking tussen Parlementen en de verschillende maatschappelijke actoren betrokken bij de strijd voor gendergelijkheid, namelijk het middenveld, de onderzoeksinstituten en de internationale organisaties.

Het *side event* spitst zich toe op de samenwerking in drie domeinen :

— de participatie van vrouwen aan het politieke leven. Alhoewel deze participatie door verschillende internationale verdragen wordt gegarandeerd, zijn reële investeringen op het terrein nodig om dit abstract recht in realiteit om te zetten ;

— de integratie van gendergelijkheid in het wetgevend werk. Hoe kan men garanderen dat de wetgeving van een land de principes van bijvoorbeeld het Actieplatform van Peking of van andere internationale normen volledig respecteert ?

— de controle van de acties van regeringen. Welke mechanismen kunnen ontwikkeld worden, door Parlementen maar ook door het middenveld, om te verzekeren dat het beleid en de regeringsprogramma's *de facto* het principe van gelijkheid en niet-discriminatie respecteert ?

De doelstelling van dit debat was tweeledig : niet enkel wensen de deelnemers de good practices te identificeren inzake de samenwerking tussen Parlementen, het maatschappelijk middenveld en de internationale en regionale organisaties ; zij hopen ook verschillende pistes vast te kunnen leggen om de internationale engagementen inzake vrouwenrechten zo efficiënt mogelijk uit te voeren.

Er werd tevens een samenwerkingsovereenkomst gesloten tussen het *Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme*, vertegenwoordigd door mevrouw Ndioro Ndiaye, coordinatrice, en het *Réseau des femmes de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie – Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*, vertegenwoordigd door mevrouw Françoise Bertieaux, voorzitter.

Les Parlements ont un rôle particulier à jouer et une responsabilité à endosser dans la lutte pour l'égalité des genres. Ce sont en effet eux qui doivent veiller à la bonne exécution des engagements pris par les États. Il est en outre essentiel d'associer activement la société civile à la lutte pour les droits de la femme. Cet événement *off* était axé sur la nécessaire coopération entre les Parlements et les divers acteurs sociaux impliqués dans la lutte pour l'égalité des genres, c'est-à-dire la société civile, les instituts de recherche et les organisations internationales.

Il traitait en particulier de la coopération dans trois domaines :

— la participation des femmes à la vie politique. Bien que cette participation soit garantie par plusieurs conventions internationales, des investissements réels sont nécessaires sur le terrain pour traduire ce droit abstrait dans la réalité ;

— l'intégration de l'égalité des genres dans le travail législatif. Comment peut-on garantir que la législation d'un pays respecte pleinement les principes par exemple de la Plateforme d'action de Pékin ou d'autres normes internationales ?

— le contrôle de l'action des gouvernements. Quels sont les mécanismes qui peuvent être développés par les Parlements, mais aussi par la société civile, pour s'assurer que la politique et les programmes gouvernementaux respectent dans les faits les principes d'égalité et de non-discrimination ?

L'objectif de ce débat était double : les participants voulaient identifier les bonnes pratiques en matière de coopération entre les Parlements, la société civile et les organisations internationales et régionales, et ils espéraient aussi pouvoir dégager des pistes en vue de mettre en œuvre de manière aussi efficace que possible les engagements pris au niveau international en matière de droits des femmes.

Une convention de coopération a aussi été conclue entre le *Réseau francophone pour l'égalité femme-homme*, représenté par Mme Ndioro Ndiaye, coordinatrice, et le *Réseau des femmes de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie – Organisation internationale de la Francophonie*, représenté par Mme Françoise Bertieaux, présidente.

IV. STEMMINGEN

Dit verslag is eenparig goedgekeurd door de aanwezige leden.

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De rapporteurs,

Christie MORREALE.
Valérie DE BUE.

De voorzitter,

Pol VAN DEN
DRIESSCHE.

V. BIJLAGEN

1. Toespraak van de heer Ban Ki-Moon, Secretaris-generaal van de Verenigde Naties, ter gelegenheid van de opening van de 59ste sessie van de VN-Commissie voor de status van de vrouw

2. Tussenkomst namens de Europese Unie door mevrouw Mārīte Seile, minister van onderwijs van de Republiek van Letland, tijdens de 59ste sessie van de VN-Commissie voor de status van de vrouw

3. Tussenkomst van mevrouw Elke Sleurs, Belgisch staatssecretaris voor Armoedebestrijding, Gelijke Kansen, Personen met een beperking, Bestrijding van de fiscale fraude, en Wetenschapsbeleid, tijdens de 59ste sessie van de VN-Commissie voor de status van de vrouw

4. *Political declaration on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women* (aangenomen op 9 maart 2015)

5. *Draft resolution which will be submitted to ECOSOC for action in June* (aangenomen op 20 maart 2015)

6. *Ministerial Round Table A « Making the economy work for women and girls »* : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

7. *Ministerial Round Table B « Investing in Gender Equality and the empowerment of women »* : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

IV. VOTES

Le présent rapport a été approuvé à l'unanimité par les membres présents.

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* *

Les rapporteuses,

Christie MORREALE.
Valérie DE BUE.

Le président,

Pol VAN DEN
DRIESSCHE.

V. ANNEXES

1. Allocution de M. Ban Ki-Moon, secrétaire général des Nations unies, lors de l'ouverture de la 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme des Nations unies

2. Intervention prononcée au nom de l'Union européenne par Mme Mārīte Seile, ministre de l'Enseignement de la République de Lettonie, au cours de la 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme des Nations unies

3. Intervention prononcée par Mme Elke Sleurs, secrétaire d'État belge à la Lutte contre la pauvreté, à l'Égalité des chances, aux Personnes handicapées, à la Lutte contre la fraude fiscale et à la Politique scientifique, lors de la 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme des Nations unies

4. Déclaration politique à l'occasion du 20^e anniversaire de la Quatrième Conférence mondiale sur les femmes (adoptée le 9 mars 2015)

5. Projet de résolution qui sera soumis pour action à ECOSOC en juin (adopté le 20 mars 2015)

6. Table ronde ministérielle A « *Making the economy work for women and girls* » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

7. Table ronde ministérielle B « *Investing in Gender Equality and the empowerment of women* » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

8. *Ministerial Round Table C « Transforming Politics and public life to achieve gender equality »* : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

9. *Ministerial Round Table D « Accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls »* : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

10. Panel 1 : « *National mechanisms for gender equality : advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

11. Panel 2 : « *Results of regional Beijing+20 events of the UN regional commissions* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

12. Panel 3 : « *Resources for gender equality – good practices and strategies for action/the way forward* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

13. Panel 4 : « *The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

14. Panel 5 : « *Changing social norms to achieve gender equality : expectations and opportunities* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

15. Panel 6 : « *Building the evidence and monitoring results : gender statistics and indicators* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

16. Panel 7 : « *Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

17. Panel 8 : « *The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming : a dialogue with functional commissions* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

18. Panel 9 : « *Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals : lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

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8. Table ronde ministérielle C « *Transforming Politics and public life to achieve gender equality* » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

9. Table ronde ministérielle D « *Accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls* » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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1. Toespraak van de heer Ban Ki-Moon, Secretaris-generaal van de Verenigde Naties, ter gelegenheid van de opening van de 59ste sessie van de VN-Commissie voor de status van de vrouw

1. Allocution de M. Ban Ki-Moon, secrétaire général des Nations unies, lors de l'ouverture de la 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme des Nations unies

Remarks at the opening session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN Headquarters, 09 March 2015

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to participate in this 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. A warm welcome to you all to the United Nations.

We are gathered here to celebrate the power of women on International Women's Day.

We are here to mark the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – a landmark in the struggle for the human rights of women.

We are here because 2015 is a vital year for advancing the cause of gender equality. If the new development agenda is to be truly transformative, women must be at its centre and front.

As women thrive, so will we all. If girls are held back, the whole world feels the pain.

Women continue to suffer disproportionately from the economic crisis, from the impacts of climate change, from the displacement caused by conflict, persecution and so much else.

Extremist groups continue to viciously and systematically attack girls and women. The international community needs to translate its outrage into aid, services, support and justice.

Attacking a woman or girl means attacking a possible peacekeeper, police officer, professional or prime minister. My UNiTE to end violence against women campaign will continue to work to end all forms of violence against women and girls, including attacks in the home.

Women bear the burden. Women pay the price. But women are not just victims; they are agents of progress and change.

Empowered women and girls are the best drivers of growth, the best hope for reconciliation, and the best buffer against radicalization of youth and the repetition of cycles of violence.

There have been important advances since the Beijing Conference. More girls have attained more access to more education than ever before. Maternal mortality has been almost halved. More women are leading businesses, governments and global organizations.

At the same time, progress remains unacceptably [slow], and our gains are not irreversible.

We must build on the Beijing foundation and complete our work. I challenge all stakeholders to work together to achieve gender equality during the timeframe set by the new development agenda.

Our goal must be: 50:50 by 2030.

I welcome the determination of Member States to make this happen. The UN system, led by UN-Women, will strongly support your efforts.

I urge Governments to work closely with women's groups and organizations, particularly the human rights defenders on the front lines.

Let us also recognize the crucial role of men in changing mindsets. Without changing the mindset of men we may not be able to change this current situation. In the 21st century, truly powerful men are those who believe in and work for the empowerment of women.

The world will never realize 100 per cent of its goals if 50 per cent of its people cannot realize their full potential.

Too often, leaders have used women to advance their own power. We must use our power to advance women.

Even at this time, there are five countries in the world where not a single woman is represented in Parliament, and eight countries in the world where not a single woman is a cabinet member. I would not disclose the names here of those countries. I would strongly urge the leaders of those countries to change this unacceptable situation.

Let us work together use this year of potential to secure the future for all where nobody is left behind in this world. That means that women should be at the centre and front in all spectrums of our life and development and peace agenda.

I thank you very much for your leadership and commitment. Thank you.

2. Tussenkomst namens de Europese Unie door mevrouw Mārīte Seile, minister van onderwijs van de Republiek van Letland, tijdens de 59ste sessie van de VN-Commissie voor de status van de vrouw

2. Intervention prononcée au nom de l'Union européenne par Mme Mārīte Seile, ministre de l'Enseignement de la République de Lettonie, au cours de la 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme des Nations unies



Statement delivered by

H. E. Ms. Mārīte Seile

Minister of Education of the Republic of Latvia

59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

United Nations

New York

9 March 2015

(Check against delivery)

Madame Chair,

I have the honour of addressing, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, this Commission on the Status of Women, as we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

We reassert our active commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action as well as to the implementation of the outcomes of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly as indispensable tools for achieving gender equality, human rights and empowerment of women and girls.

Madame Chair,

This is indeed a time for review and assessment. This is the time to intensify actions and measures to ensure the full and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This is a time to renew and strengthen commitments, in particular in the areas where progress has been slower. It is 20 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; it is 15 years since the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, peace and security. These anniversaries will coincide with the discussion on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This is why now is the once-in-a-generation opportunity to place human rights and empowerment of women and girls on the global level and to deliver tangible results for all women and girls.

Business as usual is no longer an option, whether in terms of human dignity, equality or sustainability. The new Post-2015 Development Agenda should aim to eradicate poverty in all its forms and to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions in a balanced and integrated manner. It must steel our determination to end extreme poverty in one generation, building on and completing the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. The new agenda must be people-centred, based on human rights, and combat discrimination, including gender inequality and gender based violence. Goals, targets and indicators across the framework should address legal, social and economic barriers to gender equality. When we secure the rights of women and girls, we are not only investing in equal, equitable and progressive societies, we are also un-tapping the potential of half of the world's population. We also recognise the importance of involving men and boys in advancing gender equality. This is why the European Union has supported actively the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on gender in the Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome the outcome document of the

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

Open Working Group, which includes such a goal, and also mainstreams gender through several goals. We must be able to assess effectively progress we make in achieving these goals, by measuring them through indicators and data disaggregated by sex; in this way we will make sure that no-one is left behind.

Madame Chair,

The European Union and its Member States remain committed to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights, and to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcomes of their review conferences, and in this context sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action committed States to women's full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power. With a view to the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, the European Union is monitoring progress in all 12 critical areas covered by the Beijing Platform for Action. The European Institute for Gender Equality prepared an independent monitoring report "Beijing+20", which covers the progress made since Beijing+15 and identified the remaining obstacles and challenges. On the basis of this report, the Council of the European Union adopted conclusions with policy recommendations and orientation for future action on gender equality.

In the framework of the events in preparation of Beijing+20, the Italian Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission organised in Rome in October 2014 a Conference on the future of gender equality, where the participating Ministers and political authorities responsible for gender equality reiterated their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its follow up.

We have made a lot of progress since we commemorated Beijing+15 in terms of equality in education, employment, research, and development cooperation. We are working tirelessly to eradicate trafficking of women and girls. Many of these changes came as a result of political and regulatory pressure. Equal treatment legislation has grown into a coherent legal framework. We have put money into gender equality through financial programmes, such as the new Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, and also through the Structural and Investment Funds. We have worked closely social partners and NGOs.

But this is not enough. Gender gaps and discrimination remain in all spheres of society. Let me give a revealing example: the gender pay gap is on average 16% in the EU. This is the result of persisting discrimination against women in the labour market, and of the different educational and professional paths taken by women and men. These different paths are often the result of stereotypical views of women's role in society. The gender pay gap is also the result of women and men's unequal sharing of work and family life. Often, a lack of care services puts pressure on women to interrupt their career. If we look at the gender gap in pensions, the situation is even more alarming: men's pensions are on average 39% higher than women's in the EU.

No country has fully achieved gender equality, but each one has useful experiences to share. Let me give you an example from the EU Monitoring Report with one of the critical areas of concern – violence against women. Since Beijing + 15 increased efforts have been made to

tackle issues in this area together with a greater commitment of EU Member States to preventing and combating gender-based violence against women, most notably through the process of ratification of the Istanbul Convention. The area of violence against women has gained more visibility, with more research and data collection and a better understanding of the nature and scale of the problem in the EU. We addressed more systematically and comprehensively trafficking of women and girls by adopting an ambitious legal and policy framework, also by improving our knowledge basis with data collection and studies on the gender dimension thereof.

A number of studies have been conducted, including collecting methods, tools and good practices in preventing domestic violence and on state measures to combat violence against women. These efforts have been complemented by notable EU and Member State initiatives to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework to combat violence against women. Recent EU-wide research (*FRA, 2014*) on the prevalence of different forms of violence against women estimated that across the EU Member States one in every three women have experienced sexual or physical violence since the age of 15.

In line with its Guidelines on Violence Against Women and Girls and Combating All Forms of Discrimination Against Them, the European Union supports the fight against all harmful practices affecting girls and women, men and boys, including Female Genital Mutilation and Child, Early and Forced Marriage, both in the European Union and globally. At the Girl Summit in London in July 2014 the European pledged more than 100 million euro for the next seven years to gender equality and children wellbeing under our Global Public Goods and Challenges programme.

Besides these old challenges, which are as pressing as ever, we have gained some insights into new challenges. For example, new challenges arising from the digitalisation of society. Violence, bullying, and trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation are no less harmful online than they are offline. At the same time, the digital economy is an opportunity, not least for a better reconciliation of work and family life.

Countering radicalisation and terrorism are yet another example of emerging issues. The EU is committed to address the underlying factors of radicalization by supporting initiatives with regard to youth, education, vocational training, job opportunities, civil society, security sector reform, role of women. The EU will work with faith-based organizations, as appropriate.

Madame Chair,

We also must not forget the key role women should be able to play as active agents in conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations, peace building, humanitarian responses, and post-conflict reconstruction. We are committed to promoting the role of women in peace and security, including through the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its follow-up resolutions. 17 European Union Member States have adopted national action plans with the aim of strengthening their action on UNSCR 1325. We continue to implement a systematic plan: the EU Comprehensive Approach to the Implementation of these resolutions.

We are looking forward to the Global Review of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 this year. We hope that it provides an additional push to make all our commitments on women, peace and security a reality. Preparations to the 1325 Review will be conducted in parallel

with the peacebuilding review and the review of peace operations. This provides us with an opportunity we must not miss to embed a strong gender dimension in the UN peace and security architecture.

Madame Chair,

The European Union places great importance on institutional mechanisms for equality, as is shown by the establishment of the European Institute for Gender Equality, whose main aim is to assist the EU and its Member States in the promotion of gender equality.

In some areas an increase of women's participation in decision-making processes can be noticed. A woman continues to hold the post of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The new European Commission includes for the first time a Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality.

In the European Union, we are currently preparing a new, stronger Strategy for equality between women and men after 2015 that can respond to current needs and challenges, build a just and equal society, and will be essential to continue the fight against persisting gender inequalities. We will be paying particular attention to establishing and implementing internal mechanisms that can enhance women's participation in decision-making, so that the European Union can lead by example. We are also develop this year 'an ambitious and robust' new Plan of action on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Development 2016-2020.

Madame Chair,

The promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment is a central aim of the United Nations. We welcome the key role that UN Women has been playing in empowering women and eliminating violence against women and girls through its programmes, technical assistance, advocacy and normative work, and also through its leadership and coordination of efforts across the UN. The European Union and UN Women have intensified cooperation through implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to present the commitment of the EU on Gender Equality. The EU remains dedicated to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and continues to work for this goal together with all partners around the world, as affirmed by the Political Declaration adopted earlier today.

Thank you.

3. Tussenkomst van mevrouw Elke Sleurs, Belgisch staatssecretaris voor Armoedebestrijding, Gelijke Kansen, Personen met een beperking, Bestrijding van de fiscale fraude en Wetenschapsbeleid, tijdens de 59ste sessie van de VN-Commissie voor de status van de vrouw

3. Intervention prononcée par Mme Elke Sleurs, secrétaire d'État belge à la Lutte contre la pauvreté, à l'Égalité des chances, aux Personnes handicapées, à la Lutte contre la fraude fiscale et à la Politique scientifique, lors de la 59^e session de la Commission de la condition de la femme des Nations unies



Permanent mission of Belgium to the United Nations in New York

**59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – Beijing
+20
General Debate
Intervention of Belgium**

Dear Madam Chair, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I want to declare that my delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union.

This twentieth anniversary gives us the opportunity to assess, to analyze progress made and challenges remaining... but mainly time to act.

We, as governments, are responsible for achieving gender equality and for the empowerment of women and girls through the full and accelerated implementation of all critical areas of concern in the Beijing documents. The commitments are clear, but now legislation, programs, plans and effective means of implementation are required.

Urgent action is needed to promote and protect women's and girls' human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are universal and inalienable. No tradition, no religion, no value, nor any custom or culture can ever justify gender discrimination, violence against women and girls, or violations of their rights. This includes full access to sexual, reproductive health rights and services. Such access implies the availability of confidential sexual and reproductive health information as well as comprehensive sexual education. In Belgium, all contraceptives are completely or partially reimbursed.

Belgium has also committed to take effective measures to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination that affect women and girls. We have strengthened our antidiscrimination laws by introducing specific provisions on discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression. Homophobia and transphobia are also considered an aggravating circumstance in cases of hate crimes. Campaigns against hate and discrimination in schools, media, and youth movements, by governmental instances as well as by civil society are the groundwork for an open, tolerant and LGBTIQ friendly society.

Madam Chair,

Violence against women and girls is one of the worst violations of women's rights and causes intolerable suffering. For several years, Belgium has made good on its commitment to combat gender-based violence through a national action plan that involves all levels of governance. The new national plan will be adopted in 2015 under the terms of the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. It should focus on violence between partners, female genital mutilation,

forced marriages and honor-related violence. In addition, it will integrate new measures into fight sexual violence.

Belgium aims to continue to implement a holistic, coordinated and multidisciplinary strategy that ensures that all the agencies - whether they are medical, social, police or judicial - , work together to get results. To build up and evaluate its policy, Belgium collaborates with all stakeholders including NGO's.

Madam Chair,

Gender equality is not only a human rights issue. It is also an issue that can resort positive economic effects. We must continue to pay maximum attention to employment policies' gender dimension. The fight against the wage gap is of fundamental value. We must implement policies that allow reconciliation of private and professional lives, in particular by offering quality, affordable care services for children and dependants.

Action is also required to ensure the efficiency of gender mainstreaming. Here, we must not forget that policies require adequate resources in order to be effective. In recent years, this strategy has been widely adopted at all levels of government in Belgium, sometimes through legislation. Political commitment is essential. Strategies are designed to ensure that all competent ministers meet their responsibilities by setting practical targets, implementing action plans subject to parliamentary assessment. The development of statistics disaggregated by sex and gender indicators is crucial in that respect.

Empowerment of women is a key element in the Beijing platform. In Belgium, the benefits of gender quotas or parity laws need no longer to be demonstrated: women representatives make up 41.5% of all assemblies since the 2014 elections.

Madam Chair,

Last year, Belgian law adopted sexism as a criminal offence. But legislation is not enough. It is essential that we raise the awareness of the general public, particularly amongst youth, regarding the need to reach effective gender equality in our society. Through their educational policies, Belgium's three linguistic Communities have developed specific media- and educational campaigns in order to fight gender stereotypes. These are included in textbooks and other (on-line) course materials as well as reflected through the continued training of teachers.

2015 also celebrates the 15th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. With the adoption of its second national action plan on the application of this Resolution, Belgium upholds its commitment to promote the participation of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and to protect women and girls against violence.

Finally, concerning the new Post-2015 framework, Belgium wishes to emphasize the importance of a strong gender dimension in the transformative post-2015 development agenda and reaffirms to that extent its attachment to the OWG (open working group) proposal on gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls and the structural integration of a gender perspective in all the other goals and targets, with appropriate gender disaggregated indicators in order to measure whether the proposed objectives are met for both women and men.

It's time to act for de facto gender equality. Thank you for your attention.

4. Political declaration on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women (aangenomen op 9 maart 2015)

4. Déclaration politique à l'occasion du vingtième anniversaire de la Quatrième Conférence mondiale sur les femmes (adoptée le 9 mars 2015)

United Nations

E/CN.6/2015/L.1*



Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-ninth session

9-20 March 2015

Item 3 of the provisional agenda**

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women on the basis of informal consultations

Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women

Adopts the political declaration annexed to the present resolution.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 9 March 2015.
* E/CN.6/2015/1.



Annex**Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women**

We, the Ministers and representatives of Governments,

Having gathered at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in New York, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, to undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,² including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the realization of women’s and girls’ full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls throughout their life cycle, as well as to ensure the acceleration of the implementation of the Platform for Action and to use opportunities, in the post-2015 development agenda, for the integration of a gender perspective into economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and with a commitment to ensuring the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the preparations for and the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the development, economic, social, environmental, humanitarian and related fields so that they effectively contribute to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

1. *Reaffirm* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹ the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly² and the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women;³

2. *Recognize* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the realization of their human rights, and call upon States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;⁵

3. *Welcome* the progress made towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action through concerted policy action at the national, regional and global levels, also welcome the review activities undertaken

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7 and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1)*, chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232; see also *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7 and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1)*, chap. I, sect. A, and Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

by Governments in the context of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, noting the contributions of all other relevant stakeholders and the review outcomes, and look forward to the global leaders' meeting on gender equality and women's empowerment to be held on 26 September 2015;

4. *Express concern* that progress has been slow and uneven, that major gaps remain and that obstacles, including, inter alia, structural barriers, persist in the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, and recognize that 20 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, no country has fully achieved equality and empowerment for women and girls, that significant levels of inequality between women and men and girls and boys persist globally, and that many women and girls experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, vulnerability and marginalization throughout their life cycle;

5. *Recognize* that new challenges have emerged, and reaffirm our political will and firmly commit to tackle the challenges and remaining implementation gaps in all 12 critical areas of concern, namely, women and poverty, education and training of women, women and health, violence against women, women and armed conflict, women and the economy, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights of women, women and the media, women and the environment, and the girl child;

6. *Pledge* to take further concrete action to ensure the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including through strengthened implementation of laws, policies, strategies and programme activities for all women and girls; strengthened and increased support for institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at all levels; the transformation of discriminatory norms and gender stereotypes and the promotion of social norms and practices that recognize the positive role and contribution of women and eliminate discrimination against women and girls; significantly increased investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic resource mobilization and allocation and increased priority on gender equality and the empowerment of women in official development assistance to build on progress achieved and ensure that official development assistance is used effectively to contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action; strengthened accountability for the implementation of existing commitments; and enhanced capacity-building, data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and access to and use of information and communications technologies;

7. *Emphasize* that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential for achieving the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and for tackling the critical remaining challenges through a transformative and comprehensive approach in the post-2015 development agenda, including through the sustainable development goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, as proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in its report,⁶ which shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be

⁶ See [A/68/970](#) and Corr.1.

considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,⁷ and also through the integration of a gender perspective into the post-2015 development agenda;

8. *Reaffirm* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and recall the follow-up work of the Commission in that regard, and also reaffirm its catalytic role in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, on the basis of the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session, and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

9. *Recognize* the important role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and the central role it is playing in supporting Member States and in coordinating the United Nations system and in mobilizing civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, at all levels, in support of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and call upon UN-Women and the United Nations system to continue to support the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its review and appraisal at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, the mobilization of resources to deliver results and the monitoring of progress with data and robust accountability systems;

10. *Welcome* the contributions made by civil society, including non-governmental organizations and women's and community-based organizations, to the implementation of the Platform for Action, and pledge to continue supporting, at the local, national, regional and global levels, civil society engaged in the advancement and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including by promoting a safe and enabling environment for civil society;

11. *Recognize* the importance of the full engagement of men and boys for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and commit to taking measures to fully engage men and boys in efforts to achieve the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

12. *Commit* to engaging all stakeholders for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and call upon them to intensify their efforts in this regard;

13. *Also commit* to using all opportunities and processes in 2015 and beyond to accelerate and achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, and strive for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030.

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 68/309.

5. Draft resolution which will be submitted to ECOSOC for action in June (aangenomen op 20 maart 2015)

5. Projet de résolution qui sera soumis pour action à ECOSOC en juin (adopté le 20 mars 2015)

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Commission on the Status of Women

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Agenda item 2

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the Commission, Kanda Vajrabhaya (Thailand), on the basis of informal consultations

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, in which it decided that the Commission on the Status of Women should review the functioning of its methods of work, adopted by the Council in its resolution 2006/9 of 25 July 2006 and confirmed in its resolution 2009/15 of 28 July 2009, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,

Recognizing that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,²

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.



Recognizing also that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the fulfilment of the obligations of States under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women³ are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, as well as the realization of their human rights,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming,

Recognizing the key role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in supporting the work of the Commission,

Recognizing also the importance of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, in which it is stipulated that the Economic and Social Council shall invite, inter alia, its subsidiary bodies to contribute, as appropriate, to its work in keeping with the agreed annual theme,

Noting the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the relevance of the Commission's work in this respect,

1. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of the Commission on the Status of Women for the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and further reaffirms its mandate, and its important role in overall policy-making and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in which it is recognized that the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and girls is essential for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

2. *Affirms* that the Commission will also contribute to the follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda, to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

3. *Decides* that the Commission will report on gender equality and empowerment of women aspects of the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council in order to contribute to its work;

4. *Also decides* that the Commission's session will include a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

rights and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the Commission's deliberations, and that the segment will include ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as a general discussion on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;

5. *Further decides* that the Commission will continue to hold, on an annual basis, a general discussion that will commence during the ministerial segment on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and recommends that statements identify goals attained, achievements made, and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme;

6. *Decides* that statements made during the general discussion will continue to be subject to strict time limits that will be determined prior to the session by the Bureau of the Commission and consistently applied by the Chair;

7. *Also decides* that the Commission will continue to consider one priority theme at each session, based on the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and possible linkages to the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015;

8. *Further decides* that the Commission's consideration of the priority theme shall focus on ways and means to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of current challenges, through not more than two interactive expert panels or other interactive dialogues to identify key policy initiatives and strategies in order to accelerate implementation based on an exchange of national, regional and global experiences, lessons learned, good practices and new insights based on evidence, research and evaluation, and with an emphasis on results achieved, to strengthen dialogue and commitment for further action, and that the expert panels could include experts from Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, and other stakeholder groups that work on the theme under consideration;

9. *Decides* that the outcome of the annual discussions on the priority theme will be in the form of short and succinct agreed conclusions, negotiated by all Member States, which shall focus on action-oriented recommendations for steps and measures to close remaining gaps and meet challenges and accelerate implementation, to be taken by Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, and that the agreed conclusions shall be widely disseminated to the United Nations system and made widely available by all Member States to the public in their own countries to encourage follow-up action;

10. *Also decides* that the Commission will, as necessary, continue to discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives is required, and with attention to relevant issues on the agenda

of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the annual main theme of the Council, as applicable;

11. *Requests* the Bureau of the Commission, prior to the session, to identify such an emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach, in consultation with all Member States, through their regional groups, and taking into account inputs from other relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the Commission through an interactive dialogue;

12. *Decides* that the outcome of the discussion on that emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

13. *Also decides* that each year the Commission will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue that includes:

(a) Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, presenting their lessons learned, challenges and best practices that identify means for accelerated implementation through national and regional experiences;

(b) Ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data in regard to the theme, at the national, regional and global level;

14. *Further decides* that the outcome of the discussion on the review theme will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau;

15. *Calls upon* the Commission to further enhance its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, including in support of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015 by, inter alia, expanding its cooperation with other intergovernmental processes and functional commissions through, as appropriate, the exchange of information and transmission of the outcomes of its work, joint informal interactive events and the participation of its Chair, in consultation with the Bureau, in relevant processes;

16. *Invites* all gender-specific United Nations entities and other relevant United Nations entities, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to contribute, where appropriate, to the discussion of the Commission;

17. *Invites* the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission;

18. *Decides*, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 and 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, such organizations should be encouraged to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation process related to the Fourth World Conference on Women, and requests the Secretary-General to make

appropriate arrangements to ensure full utilization of existing channels of communication with non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate broad-based participation and dissemination of information;

19. *Also decides* to strengthen existing opportunities for non-governmental organizations, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1996/6 and 1996/31, to contribute to the work of the Commission, including by allocating time for them to deliver statements on themes relevant to the session, during panels and interactive dialogues and at the end of the general discussion, taking into account geographic distribution;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the continuation of the annual parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and their contribution to the discussion of the Commission, as well as the programme of side events held on the occasion of the sessions of the Commission;

21. *Encourages* all Member States to consider including in their delegations to the Commission technical experts, planning and budgeting experts and statisticians, including from ministries with expertise relevant to the themes under consideration, as well as parliamentarians, members of national human rights institutions, where they exist, and representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, as appropriate;

22. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to play a proactive role in the preparations for the session, including through regular briefings as well as consultations with Member States;

23. *Also encourages* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and to enhance the impact of its work;

24. *Encourages* Governments and all other stakeholders to undertake comprehensive preparations for each session of the Commission, at the national, regional and global level, as applicable, so as to strengthen the basis for follow-up to outcomes and implementation;

25. *Requests* the Commission to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation; in selecting its priority theme, the Commission should take into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the work programme of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Economic and Social Council system and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on the priority theme, including conclusions and recommendations for further action;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress made on the review theme at the national level;

E/CN.6/2015/L.5

28. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in the annual report to the Economic and Social Council on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system an assessment of the impact of the Commission's input to discussions within the United Nations system;

29. *Decides* that, at its sixtieth session, when the Commission will decide on its future multi-year programme of work, it should further review its working methods with a view to further aligning them to the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015.

6. Ministerial Round Table A « Making the economy work for women and girls » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

6. Table ronde ministérielle A « Making the economy work for women and girls » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Agenda item 3

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Ministerial round table: making the economy work for women and girls

Chair’s summary

1. On 10 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women held a ministerial round table on the topic “Making the economy work for women and girls” under the overall theme “Priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls”. The participants in the round table focused on the current challenges in the economic sphere for women and the way forward in achieving economic equality for women and girls to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

2. The Federal Minister of Welfare and Social Security of the Sudan, Mashaair Ahmed Elamin Aldawalab, chaired the round table and the General Secretary of the International Domestic Workers Federation, Elizabeth Tang, served as moderator. The meeting opened with brief introductions by the Chair and the Moderator. Ministers and high-level officials from 19 States Members of the United Nations participated in the round table.

Addressing the barriers to women’s economic empowerment

3. All participants confirmed that gender equality and women’s economic empowerment continued to be a national priority. Participants recognized the strong link between women’s participation in the labour force and positive economic and social outcomes and, consequently, the need for women to have access to decent work. However, participants also identified a number of key challenges that continued to hinder progress for women and girls in the economic domain.



4. According to participants, a major barrier to women's economic empowerment continued to be structural inequalities, which were rooted in restrictive social norms and institutions and in discriminatory laws and practices affecting women's access to work and their rights at work. One particular concern raised by many participants was the unequal sharing of domestic and care work. The burden of unpaid work continued to be borne disproportionately by women. Ministers underlined the need for policies that supported better work-life balance and sharing of care responsibilities, in particular childcare, between men and women, and gave examples of good practices in that regard. Paid parental leave, flexible work arrangements, State subsidies and allowances and affordable childcare were mentioned as ways to address that issue. Targeted initiatives that encouraged men to share family responsibilities, for example through allowances and bonuses when fathers took parental leave, were also mentioned.

5. Participants acknowledged gender disparities in pay as a major impediment to women's economic empowerment. Women often remained confined to the least remunerative and least protected segments of the formal and informal economy, which contributed to the persistence of the gender pay gap. While participants welcomed the significant progress in improving women's access to education, those gains had not translated into sufficient economic empowerment for women. Ministers were therefore concerned that women continued to be underrepresented at the senior management and executive levels in both the private and public sectors. A number of participants described efforts to increase women's participation in top decision-making structures, including through mandatory quotas for women on corporate boards.

6. Several participants highlighted the challenges in improving conditions for the informal labour force, which was disproportionately made up of women. Speakers pointed out that women who worked in the informal economy often lived in poverty, lacked access to social protection and were unable to realize their economic and social rights. As their working conditions were unregulated, workers in the informal sector were often subjected to exploitation and violence, with little or no access to remedies. Participants highlighted the important role of labour laws and institutions in protecting women's rights at work, and of efforts to expand such protection and benefits to women working in the informal economy.

Enhancing women's access to resources, markets and economic opportunities

7. Participants stated that women's economic empowerment was being held back by pervasive gender disparities in access to and ownership of land, resources, technology and agricultural inputs. Such disparities in access were exacerbated and compounded by shocks, such as the economic and financial crises and environmental disasters of recent years. Women workers and entrepreneurs also faced barriers in access to markets, including to production chains with significant value in exports. To rectify some of those disparities, speakers provided examples of laws and policies aimed at increasing women's access to productive resources in general, as well as of targeted efforts, such as dedicating portions of arable agricultural land specifically to women.

8. In a number of countries, creating public sector employment opportunities for women was a priority. Efforts were also being made to increase women's economic opportunities in the public sector, with participants giving examples of affirmative

action policies, including in procurement procedures, as successful strategies to increase women's engagement in and sourcing for the public sector.

9. Participants acknowledged the urgency of increasing women's participation in sectors that had traditionally been male-dominated and drew particular attention to the science, engineering and technology sectors. Participants called for investment in skills and vocational training for women in those industries.

10. Ministers emphasized the importance of supporting women's entrepreneurship as a strategy to promote their economic empowerment. A number of national measures were mentioned, including improving access to formal credit and productive assets, creating tax incentives for women-owned enterprises, supporting women's agricultural production and providing business-related training opportunities. In some instances, such measures were combined with childcare benefits for parents participating in vocational training. Participants also highlighted the importance of creating mentorship networks aimed at fostering women's entrepreneurship, as well as initiatives that encouraged public-private partnerships.

Ensuring an enabling economic policy environment

11. Participants discussed the lack of gender sensitivity of macroeconomic policies and public sector reforms enacted in the wake of the 2007 and 2008 global economic and financial crisis. Speakers noted that austerity measures often had a greater impact on women who relied on the State for social services and employment, and stressed the need for greater attention to such imbalance in economic policymaking, for both economic and social reasons. In addition, participants noted that a narrow focus on raising the gross domestic product contributed to gender inequalities in the economy being overlooked, thereby limiting support for women workers and entrepreneurs.

12. In relation to macroeconomic policies, participants also noted the gender-specific impacts of investments in infrastructure and therefore the need for gender-responsive infrastructure policies. Investment in electrification was cited as key for enabling women to allocate time to engage in income-generating activities instead of to fetching water and wood. Lack of transportation was another barrier for women to access employment opportunities. Women's economic empowerment therefore required greater attention to gender perspectives in infrastructure and transport policies.

13. Additional areas requiring attention to make the economy work for women were gender-responsive budgeting and national planning processes to ensure that macroeconomic policies supported gender equality. National action plans for gender equality could be used effectively to promote such efforts. Participants agreed on the importance of sex-disaggregated data to inform gender-responsive economic policymaking.

7. Ministerial Round Table B « Investing in Gender Equality and the empowerment of women » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

7. Table ronde ministérielle B « Investing in Gender Equality and the empowerment of women » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Ministerial round table: investing in gender equality and the empowerment of women

Chair’s summary

1. On 10 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women held a ministerial round table on the topic “Investing in gender equality and the empowerment of women” under the overall theme “Priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls”. The participants in the round table focused on current challenges and the way forward in financing for gender equality to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

2. The round table was chaired by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Estonia, Marina Kaljurand, and was moderated by the Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, Amina Mohammed. In total, 25 ministers and high-level officials participated in the round table.

Strategies to increase investments in gender equality

3. All participants confirmed the importance of investing in gender equality and women’s empowerment. Many expressed concern about remaining gaps in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, and all called for increased financing and investment for gender equality to ensure a full and effective implementation. Participants highlighted the particular significance of increasing investments in gender equality in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

4. Participants stressed the significance of domestic resource mobilization for the adequate and effective allocation of those resources towards gender equality. Mainstreaming and institutionalizing gender equality in government planning and budgeting processes were considered an urgent priority. Many participants reported



that gender-responsive budgeting was an effective strategy that had resulted in increased financing to implement gender equality commitments. Participants emphasized the important role of the ministries of finance and of planning in achieving such gains. Strategies to strengthen gender-responsive budgeting at both the national and local levels included the regular analysis of gender issues in budgets at all levels, the audit of budget expenditures and the assessment of the impact of public spending on gender equality. Participants also highlighted the importance of progressive tax measures that did not discriminate against women. According to participants, further efforts were required to strengthen the technical capacity of governmental institutions to draw up gender-responsive budgets. Stronger collaboration was needed across governmental departments responsible for gender equality, planning and financing to enable the effective planning, budgeting and implementation of gender equality policies.

5. Several participants drew attention to the need to strengthen the monitoring of public spending, for instance through open budgets and budget audits, gender analyses and the assessment of policy impact. They highlighted the need for increased resources, coordination and capacity-building for the collection, dissemination and use of sex-disaggregated data. They recommended that a central body collect data in accordance with global gender indicators. An example of the role that civil society could play in monitoring and providing oversight of government programmes was provided. Participants encouraged the sharing of good practices to facilitate the scaling-up of programmes and initiatives from the local to the national levels, as well as among countries.

6. Participants emphasized the importance of development cooperation to support countries in meeting gender equality commitments, through North-South cooperation, in particular official development assistance. They believed that, while there had been a positive trend in the total volume of donor aid commitments targeting gender equality and women's empowerment, there remained significant funding gaps in critical areas of importance to women and girls, notably in their economic empowerment and in ending violence against women. To ensure that funding addressed those gaps, participants called for strengthened capacity-building, technical assistance and comprehensive systems to monitor the total amount of official development assistance allocated to gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as the funding allocation in key sectors. In that regard, there was a call for greater support to developing countries by the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). Participants stressed that all donor support should be aligned with national development priorities, plans and strategies, emphasizing the accountability of donors. Speakers acknowledged the emerging role of South-South and triangular cooperation in facilitating the sharing of experiences and good practices.

7. Participants also drew attention to the role of the private sector in supporting investments for gender equality, including in partnership with the public sector. Some participants noted the need for the private sector to be fully aligned with national priorities on gender equality and emphasized the importance for private actors to adhere to the principles of transparency and accountability for gender equality. Participants highlighted the role of civil society organizations as advocates and in service delivery and stated that their participation in key decision-making processes should be strengthened.

An enabling policy and legislative environment

8. The development and full implementation of gender equality policies and strategies to address persistent gaps were identified as a priority. Participants stated that such frameworks were instrumental in articulating gender equality priorities at the national level, linking them with policy and planning, and monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and that their implementation needed to be fully funded. National machineries for gender equality were considered particularly important, with several participants underlining the need for clear mandates, adequate resources and strengthened capacity to deliver results. Participants acknowledged the need for other governmental agencies, including line ministries, to work in close collaboration with national machineries to pursue gender equality. Participants also highlighted the need for better alignment between gender equality policies and national development strategies.

9. Several participants mentioned that, in many countries, discriminatory or inadequate legislation was a major obstacle for overcoming gender inequality. A number of good practices were shared that included reforms in tax systems, changes in budgetary laws, increased quotas for women's participation, mandatory budget allocations and favourable amendments to constitutions and family laws.

Priority actions for the future

10. Several priority actions were identified for accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the area of financing for gender equality. All participants agreed that Governments required increased resources for closing the gap between commitments and implementation. Ministers noted that resources should be focused on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, but that a particular emphasis should be put on women-headed households, women in conflict situations and rural women.

11. Opportunities for raising resources included government action through progressive tax policies and the efficient allocation of those resources to priority actions for ensuring gender equality, such as the provision of basic public services and social protection. Ministers identified the need to increase the capacity to develop and implement gender-responsive plans and budgets that yielded such results for women and girls. Similarly, strengthening mechanisms to monitor public spending and programme impact, including through the collection and use of sex-disaggregated data, was identified as a priority area.

12. Participants emphasized the need for donors to meet their official development assistance commitments and to ensure that aid allocations targeted critical gap areas and were aligned with national development priorities, plans and strategies. Information on aid allocations to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women should be made available and accessible. Participants underlined that donors and United Nations agencies should continue to provide technical support to countries for the institutionalization of gender-sensitive policies, plans and budgets. Looking ahead to the post-2015 development framework, participants called on all actors to work together to address gender inequality, including by building multi-stakeholder partnerships.

8. Ministerial Round Table C « Transforming Politics and public life to achieve gender equality » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

8. Table ronde ministérielle C « Transforming Politics and public life to achieve gender equality » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”

Ministerial round table: transforming politics and public life to achieve gender equality

Chair’s summary

1. On 10 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women held a ministerial round table on the topic “Transforming politics and public life to achieve gender equality” under the overall theme “Priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls”. The participants in the round table focused on challenges in enhancing women’s participation in decision-making and the way forward to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

2. The round table was chaired by the Director of the Institute for the Development of Women of El Salvador, Yanira Argueta, and moderated by the former Prime Minister of Senegal, Aminata Touré. In total, 29 ministers and high-level officials participated in the round table.

Strengthening women’s participation, starting with political will

3. Participants confirmed the importance of institutional transformation to achieve gender equality in decision-making and leadership. They acknowledged that political will was necessary to ensure gender equality and noted that commitments and declarations had to be accompanied by actions and mechanisms to boost the participation and leadership of women.

4. A number of participants commented on the use of temporary special measures, including quotas, as a primary mechanism to increase women’s political opportunities. High percentages of women in parliament were due in part to the implementation of quotas, although those worked best when supplemented by other measures, such as the reform of the electoral system; encouraging more transparent



elections and ensuring the establishment of independent electoral commissions; and applying sanctions, including financial penalties, for non-compliance with quota legislation. Participants also discussed the financing of women's electoral campaigns.

5. A number of participants spoke of the importance of women's leadership and participation in other institutions and entities, including corporate boards, trade unions and business associations. Quotas were seen as an effective way of ensuring women's presence, with some States requiring that women constitute at least 30 per cent of corporate boards.

6. The role of political parties was discussed, as was the need to ensure women's increased participation, including by strategically positioning women in winnable positions on their candidate lists, or by supporting their campaigns through party funds. Some participants pointed to the need for greater transparency in the internal functioning of parties, for promoting gender equality more systematically through their structures and for party leaders to be trained in gender equality issues. In States where women were currently not represented at all in elected positions, or where they were significantly underrepresented, constitutional amendments were being considered to boost women's electoral prospects. In other States, there was an increasing trend to work towards parity between men and women.

7. In addition to the implementation of quotas, participants raised the need to run awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of women's electoral and political participation. The importance of working with men and boys to advance gender equality was also underscored. Some participants stressed the need to strengthen solidarity among women.

8. Participants also stressed the need to build the capacity of women to participate in politics. The importance of universal education policies and the economic empowerment of women was underlined. Participants mentioned the need to enhance women's political skills at all levels of government and to create incentives for women's leadership at the subnational level.

9. The role of women's organizations at the grassroots level was highlighted in nurturing the interest and activism of women in politics, but also in holding Governments accountable for their commitments to increase the participation of women. Participants stressed the need to develop indicators and statistics to monitor progress and setbacks.

10. Some participants noted the need to sign and ratify international treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to ensure that enshrining gender equality in national constitutions became a priority. The topics of developing and implementing national strategies and action plans for gender equality, and of agreeing on lines of responsibility for those actions were also discussed.

Transforming institutions and creating enabling environments

11. The transformation of political institutions to ensure the achievement of gender equality was recognized as a priority for accelerating the implementation of the Platform for Action. There was agreement that transformed institutions required the equal participation of men and women at all levels, including in leadership

positions. Ensuring gender balance was seen as a first step towards more gender-sensitive legislation, policies and decisions.

12. Instituting gender mainstreaming strategies, gender budgeting and facilitating gender audits in public institutions were seen as critical steps in ensuring that institutions addressed gender equality concerns. Participants stressed the importance of developing tangible tools to incorporate gender equality concerns in the work of both public and private sector institutions. Dedicated mechanisms, such as women's caucuses, committees or networks of gender focal points, were seen as critical for entrenching gender mainstreaming and required access to sound gender analysis, research and sex disaggregated data.

13. Participants also noted the importance of partnerships of gender equality machineries and civil society organizations with other stakeholders. The need to support the coordination role of gender equality machineries and their mandate as catalysts for gender mainstreaming was stressed. The view was expressed that the full and effective participation of women required a link among parliament, Government and women's civil society organizations. Such organizations had been successful in keeping Governments accountable for gender equality actions and commitments. In some States, gender observatories had been established to measure and monitor progress and setbacks.

14. It was widely recognized, however, that institutional transformation would not be achieved unless responsibility for unpaid care work was shared between men and women. In many countries, women spent a disproportionate amount of time on childcare and household responsibilities. Encouraging women's paid work and providing universal childcare facilities were seen as critical in redressing that inequality. There was agreement upon the importance of women's economic independence and of a guarantee of decent work and equal pay for work of equal value.

15. Addressing the institutional environment in which women and men worked was also considered important in achieving gender equality. Some participants stressed the need to ensure that men and women were able to work together on issues of gender equality, in an environment free from sexual harassment and discrimination. A number of participants called for a paradigm shift to address the attitudinal barriers about women's roles. Participants were keen to promote role models of women in leadership positions, capable of managing resources.

Inclusive institutions

16. Participants stressed that women were not a homogenous group. To ensure the participation of the most marginalized women, they underlined the need to create consultative mechanisms and engage a diverse range of women. They also stressed the importance of addressing women's poverty and marginalization and noted that quotas had been a useful mechanism in overcoming intersecting forms of discrimination. There was a special focus on the importance of building the capacity of young women to advocate gender equality.

17. The importance of proposed sustainable development goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and the need to incorporate gender equality into all sustainable development goals were highlighted. Participants raised the issue of financing for gender equality to ensure the

E/CN.6/2015/INF/3

implementation of the sustainable development goals and, thereby, the full and equal participation of women in all areas and at all levels. The role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) was noted as key in that process.

9. Ministerial Round Table D « Accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

9. Table ronde ministérielle D « Accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Ministerial round table: accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls

Chair’s summary

1. On 10 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women held a ministerial round table on the topic “Accountability for realizing de facto equality for women and girls” under the overall theme “Priorities for future action to realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls”. The participants in round table focused on the sharing of national experiences, good practices and challenges related to ensuring accountability for gender equality commitments and the realization of women’s human rights, particularly through the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in the post-2015 development agenda.

2. The Secretary-General of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Betto Bättig, chaired the round table, and the Sex Discrimination Commissioner of Australia, Elizabeth Broderick, served as moderator. Ministers and high-level officials from 16 Member States participated in the interactive dialogue.

Strengthening national and international accountability mechanisms for gender equality

3. There was strong consensus among participants that effective national accountability mechanisms and institutions were critical for the implementation of national and international gender equality commitments. Participants noted the important roles of national gender equality machineries and national human rights institutions as mechanisms for monitoring and overseeing cross-sectoral responsibilities to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and realize women’s human rights. A number of participants gave examples of the ways



in which independent regulatory bodies, such as equality and anti-discrimination ombudsmen, empower women to claim their human rights and seek redress for violations.

4. Many participants expressed concern, however, about the lack of political will and of financial and human resources available to institutions and mechanisms for promoting gender equality. Participants emphasized that such institutions and mechanisms must be properly resourced so that they may be responsive to the needs of women and girls and have the power and capacity to ensure compliance with commitments and obligations. Many participants stressed the crucial role of civil society, including women's rights organizations in holding Governments to account for gender equality and in advancing women's human rights.

5. A number of speakers noted the importance of using the Beijing Platform for Action and international human rights treaties and mechanisms to effectively influence the design of laws, policies and programmes. Participants acknowledged that reporting to international treaty bodies, such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and international processes, such as the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council, strengthen government accountability for gender equality. Civil society shadow reporting, as well as public debates on State party reports, were highlighted as integral aspects of these accountability mechanisms.

Laws, policies and monitoring as central to accountability

6. A number of participants highlighted national action plans for gender equality that set clear targets and indicators and were regularly monitored as effective means by which to promote gender mainstreaming and ensure that all parts of government are responsible for achieving gender equality. Participants also identified increased coordination between gender equality machineries and executive, legislative and judicial bodies as key for ensuring accountability for gender equality by all State actors. A number of participants drew attention to the significant role that parliaments could assume in holding all ministries accountable for the implementation of gender equality action plans and commitments, including by conducting parliamentary fact-finding missions to assess government compliance. The equally important role of local authorities in implementing national action plans and ensuring accountability for gender equality was also noted by participants.

7. Participants highlighted the importance of being able to track the use of budget allocations from a gender perspective and the key role of financial oversight bodies tasked with monitoring government spending in accordance with gender equality action plans and commitments. Several countries reported the use of gender-responsive budgeting in their national budget cycles to support the effective and efficient allocation and spending of available resources to promote gender equality and recommended it as an important monitoring tool.

8. Persistent discrimination against women in the law was highlighted by a number of speakers as a major obstacle to the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights. At the same time, ministers reported on progress in reforming legal and policy frameworks, including the introduction or strengthening of gender equality legislation, constitutional amendments to guarantee gender equality and non-discrimination, policies to advance women's economic empowerment and the introduction of quotas to increase women's participation in political and

decision-making bodies. Speakers agreed that all remaining discriminatory laws must be removed.

9. Several participants stressed the importance of reporting and evaluation as tools to promote accountability at the national, regional and international levels. It was noted that, in order to be truly accountable for realizing gender equality and the human rights of women and girls, constant reviews and evaluations of the impact of laws, policies and programmes were imperative. By conducting reviews and evaluations, problems could be identified and adjustments made in order to deliver results and benefits for all women and girls. High-quality data were seen as crucial for effectively monitoring progress and their collection should be a priority.

Increasing private sector accountability for gender equality

10. A number of participants stressed the importance of ensuring private sector accountability for gender equality and the need to monitor the impact of the private sector on gender equality and the enjoyment by women of their human rights. One approach was to create incentives for the private sector, for example by underscoring that, in addition to being a human rights issue, advancing gender equality could be good for business.

11. Participants highlighted that, as power in the private sector had historically been in the hands of men, involving men in efforts to increase the number of women in leadership positions in the private sector was critical. One initiative involved requesting male chief executive officers to use their positions of influence to support women in building their leadership skills and to commit to publicly report on progress made towards specific targets. Participants also suggested that parliaments had an important role to play in making the private sector more accountable, for example by forming specialized parliamentary oversight committees. A good practice was the establishment of a quota of 40 per cent for women on the boards of publicly traded companies. Multi-stakeholder accountability frameworks involving the government, civil society and the private sector were also suggested as successful means to increase private sector accountability.

12. Speakers gave examples of successful collaborative partnerships to promote accountability for the advancement of women's human rights, including within the private sector, such as the establishment of a formal memorandum of understanding between the private sector, civil society and the prime minister that focused on increasing women's participation on the boards of private companies. A multi-stakeholder cooperation initiative to promote accountability included programmes and initiatives to promote women's economic empowerment and financial independence through regional trainings and the formation of agreements between businesses, educational institutions and various levels of government at the regional, national and local levels.

10. Panel 1 : « National mechanisms for gender equality : advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

10. Panel 1 : « National mechanisms for gender equality : advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Round table: National mechanisms for gender equality – advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change

Chair’s summary

1. On 11 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women convened a round table discussion on the theme: “National mechanisms for gender equality: advocates for action and accountability, catalysts for change”. The round table focused on the role of institutional mechanisms in implementing commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment. Ministers of gender equality and representatives of the diverse range of gender equality mechanisms discussed ways in which such mechanisms have effectively promoted accountability and monitored progress towards gender equality, especially through alliance building and partnerships.

2. H.E. Mr. Ruben Zamora, Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (El Salvador), chaired the round table, and Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights served as moderator. The panelists were: Ms. Makhfirat Khidir-zoda, Chair of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs, Tajikistan; Ms. Maria de Lurdes Martins de Sousa Bessa, member of the Women’s Parliamentary Group, Timor-Leste; Ms. Rose Rwabuhiri, Chief Gender Monitor, Gender Monitoring Office, Rwanda; Ms. Nicole Ameline, Member, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; Ms. Roxana Alvarado, First Vice President of the National Assembly, Ecuador; Ms. Absa Wade Ngom, Director, Department of Women, Equity and Equality, Ministry of Women, Family and Children, Senegal; Ms. Ana Arganashvili, Project Manager, Partnerships for Human Rights, Georgia; Dr. Salma Nims, Secretary General, Jordanian National Commission for Women; Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women’s Affairs, Royal Government of Cambodia; Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director UNFPA; and Ms. Alejandra Mora Mora, Minister for Women’s Affairs of Costa Rica and President of the Inter-American Commission of Women. The panelists gave examples of the catalytic role of national mechanisms for gender equality in three outcome areas critical to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for

* E/CN.6/2015/1.



Action: legislative change and accountability for gender equality; increased resources and enhanced service delivery for gender equality; and advocacy, awareness raising and women's participation and leadership. 24 government representatives contributed to the interactive dialogue.

3. The discussion confirmed that national mechanisms for gender equality are principal drivers for the realization of gender equality and remain central to the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action, in the context of the post 2015 development agenda. A diverse range of gender equality mechanisms has been created or strengthened in the past 20 years, responding to the specific national context, and include, in addition to a central unit within Government at the highest level, focal points and working groups across sectoral ministries; accountability institutions such as ombuds, 'gender monitoring offices' and observatories; and advisory councils. They also increasingly include mechanisms that are part of the legislative branch, such as women's parliamentary caucuses or committees that focus on gender equality issues. They also include networks and coalitions of non-governmental and women's organizations. National mechanisms also increasingly have well-established linkages to regional and global monitoring mechanisms.

Promoting legislative change and accountability for gender equality

4. Participants welcomed the strong relationships forged between government machinery for gender equality and parliamentary bodies such as women's caucuses to ensure the passage of legislation across a wide range of issues, including maternal health, family law and violence against women. A useful strategy to secure passage of such legislation was for women parliamentarians to work across political parties. Review by a dedicated parliamentary mechanism of all legislation from a gender perspective to ensure absence of discrimination against women was also recommended. The establishment of an inter-ministerial coordination commission to monitor progress in the achievement of gender equality was another good practice example. In a post-conflict and reconstruction context, the preparation of a national action plan and implementation framework for Security Council resolution 1325 could contribute to greater accountability for gender equality.

5. Speakers agreed that government commitment together with action for gender equality was critical to enhance accountability for results. Tools for increasing accountability included: the creation of an independent national gender monitor to monitor respect for gender equality by public organs at all levels, the creation of a forum for national dialogue and consultation, and collaboration between local government, the private sector, and civil society organizations. Partnering by government mechanisms with civil society organizations to monitor the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy and of action for gender equality and women's empowerment was seen as especially effective in increasing State accountability. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was an important global accountability mechanism, particularly in its ability to work with national mechanisms for gender equality and providing recommendations for strengthening compliance with treaty obligations.

Increasing resources and improving the delivery of services

6. Participants emphasized that universal education and free healthcare were fundamental prerequisite to achieving gender equality. They highlighted that successful delivery of gender-sensitive services greatly depended on the institutional framework, as well as the resources and political engagement committed to their delivery. Linking up gender-sensitive policy making with gender-sensitive budgeting was seen as one of the most effective ways for mainstreaming gender perspectives in the work of all public institutions and their delivery of services to women and girls. Examples of the use of quotas and benchmarks demonstrated how these tools could be used to bring about positive change towards achieving gender equality.

7. Participants highlighted the strategic use of statistics and data, and of gender-sensitive indicators to mobilize and improve resources allocated towards gender equality. Such data can be used strategically to demonstrate the benefits to society of gender equality and can effectively be used to influence decision-makers. In order to produce such data and to measure results, participants drew attention to the critical need for effective monitoring and evaluation. National mechanisms for gender equality had a leading role to play in promoting

monitoring and evaluation, and examples such as national gender observatories and civil society platforms acting as ‘watchdogs’ were provided.

8. Concern was expressed about the continuing challenges of under-funding of gender equality work and the low priority attached to it on government and public agendas. To counteract such trends, participants agreed on the value of collaboration and coalition-building between gender equality mechanisms within government at different levels, and civil society. Participants noted that engaging civil society ensures greater transparency and accountability, and also contributed to better service delivery to women and girls. The view was expressed that the responsibilities of national mechanisms for gender equality should be fully transferred to civil society and an example was provided of civil society coalitions collaborating with government ministries and the legislature.

9. Participants agreed that political will was necessary to secure increased, long-term funding for gender equality and, consequently, improved and consistent service delivery for gender equality. Enhanced service delivery, in turn, benefitted from a collaborative and holistic approach, engaging both government and civil society. National mechanisms had a key role to play in fostering such alliances and advocating for government commitment.

Advocacy, awareness raising, and improving women’s participation

10. Participants gave examples of effective strategies to build capacities of national mechanisms to be the knowledge and advocacy hub for gender equality issues. National mechanisms had successfully facilitated partnerships and collaboration on gender equality issues across all levels of government. In this regard, participants agreed that a key determinant of the effectiveness and impact of the broad range of institutional mechanisms was their capacity to work together by building partnerships and engaging in collaborative processes. Such partnerships were seen as a fundamental component of strengthening collaboration between women’s/gender equality ministries and other parts of government to institutionalize gender mainstreaming and advance gender equality. Institutional frameworks to foster such collaboration and implement gender mainstreaming across all levels government – national, provincial and local — included: appointing gender focal points across various levels of government; establishing networks of women parliamentarians; and creating coalitions between civil society organizations and national commissions and councils for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

11. Many national machineries implemented capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy efforts aimed at addressing structural barriers and institutional obstacles to achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment. Among the examples provided were: broadening expertise of stakeholders on gender equality issues through training, seminars, workshops and national forums; working with political decision-makers and through government to ensure that the head of the national machinery for gender equality is at ministerial or comparable high-level rank; building partnerships to monitor and effectively measure progress made in women’s participation; working with stakeholders to integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies and programmes.

12. Speakers acknowledged the important role of international organizations in supporting national mechanisms for gender equality, including through building capacity for monitoring and accountability, providing technical assistance and supporting advocacy campaigns to ensure the realization of gender equality commitments.

13. Participants discussed steps taken by national mechanisms towards ensuring women’s full and equal participation in decision-making bodies, and agreed that support for women’s political participation at the local and national levels was an increasing priority of national mechanisms. Temporary special measures, such as quotas, as well as constitutional and legal reforms to ensure women’s equal access to and full participation in political institutions and decision-making bodies were presented. Training for women in politics had been effective in increasing the impact of their political participation and enhanced their representation in elections.

E/CN.6/2015/INF/5

Despite progress, prevailing discriminatory social norms, the persistence of violence against women running for political office and the overall lack of political will were acknowledged as remaining critical barriers to advancing women's participation and leadership across all levels of decision-making.

11. Panel 2 : « Results of regional Beijing+20 events of the UN regional commissions » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

11. Panel 2 : « Results of regional Beijing+20 events of the UN regional commissions » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Results of regional reviews conducted by the regional commissions of the United Nations

Chair’s summary

1. On 12 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive panel on the topic: “Results of regional reviews of the United Nations regional commissions”. The panel was chaired by Ms. Kanda Vajrabhaya, Chair of the Commission and was moderated by Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN-Women Executive Director. The panelists were: Mr. Christian Friis Bach Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe; Ms. Rima Khalaf, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, who participated via video, as did Mr. Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa contributed via a video message.

2. The five regions held regional review processes under the auspices of the regional commissions of the United Nations, in partnership and collaboration with UN-Women. The Economic Commission for Europe held its Regional Review Meeting on 6 and 7 November 2014 in Geneva, with an outcome in the form of Co-chairpersons’ conclusions. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific convened the Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, from 17 to 20 November 2014 in Bangkok, which adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s

* E/CN.6/2015/1.



Empowerment. The Economic Commission for Africa held the Ninth African Regional Conference on Women from 17 to 19 November 2014 in Addis Ababa, resulting in the adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: Towards a transformational change for women and girls in Africa. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held a special session of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, from 17 to 19 November 2014, which adopted a statement on the occasion. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia convened an intergovernmental Arab High-Level Conference on Progress Achieved in Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action after 20 Years, from 2 to 3 February 2015, in Cairo, which concluded with the adoption of the Arab Declaration: Towards Justice and Equality for Women in the Arab Region.

3. The regional review processes and their outcomes highlighted a number of region-specific priorities. ECE outlined as the way forward: gender equality for inclusive and sustainable societies with a focus on closing gender gaps through economic and social policies; women's representation in policy and decision-making; preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls; and governance and gender justice. Aside from validating the continuing relevance of the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action, ESCAP identified five areas to accelerate implementation in the future, namely: strengthening institutions, including national gender equality machineries; increasing financing for gender equality and gender-responsive budgeting; enhancing accountability; forging stronger partnerships between governments, the UN system, the private sector, civil society and other actors; and strengthening regional cooperation. ECA called for strategic action on economic empowerment of women through the creation of decent jobs, poverty reduction, social protection and social security; education and training; women's reproductive health and HIV/AIDS; violence against women and girls; peace, security and development; women in power and decision-making positions; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women and girls; women and the media; women, the environment and climate change; and the girl child. ECLAC stressed the importance of prioritizing gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda, in addition to increasing financing and a shift in focus from micro- to macro-economic policies in order to strengthen women's economic empowerment; and highlighted the links between women's economic, physical and political autonomy. ESCWA stressed the need for more comprehensive legislative reforms to eliminate gender discrimination; for enabling institutional mechanisms to protect women from violence and secure their human rights; for systematic support towards greater women's political and economic participation; and for dedicated resources to sustain achievements and protect acquired rights, focusing specifically on women under Israeli occupation and in conflict, forced displacement, and humanitarian settings.

4. The discussion of the key findings from the regions, and the main policy recommendations and strategies for future action underscored the important role of the regional commissions in the follow-up to and implementation of the regional reviews. Across all regions, gender equality, women's empowerment and the human rights of women and girls were increasingly recognized as key to creating stronger and more sustainable societies for all, and thus central to development planning.

5. Speakers welcomed that countries had ratified international and regional human rights instruments, removed discrimination in law, and enacted and strengthened legislative and policy frameworks to promote gender mainstreaming. Women's

political participation has increased, as has women's and girls' access to education, with many countries across all regions achieving gender parity. Maternal mortality rates have decreased, and women's life expectancy rates in many regions continued their upward trend.

6. Despite progress, participants identified remaining gaps and challenges. Gaps persist between existing legislation and its implementation in most areas of the Beijing Platform for Action, requiring urgent action. Greater political will is needed to raise awareness of and realize women's human rights. Labour market segregation persists, with many women in lower paid jobs with limited or no social protection, rendering them particularly vulnerable in times of economic and political crisis. The gender pay gap holds back women's economic advancement, requiring urgent action and measures such as paid maternity/paternity and parental leave and child care facilities. Gaps in women's access to land, credit, financial services, and other productive resources impede women's ability to attain economic independence and social mobility. These gaps also limit women's ability to cope with increasingly frequent and severe climate or natural disasters. Violence against women and girls and insufficient accountability of perpetrators remained major concerns in all regions. Such violence is further exacerbated in times of conflict and displacement. Monitoring and evaluation of policies remain inadequate, due in part to a lack of data collection and statistics disaggregated by sex, gender, age, educational level, income and other factors.

7. Participants stressed the need for women's economic empowerment, with emphasis on the needs of young women, especially in the light of high unemployment of young women in some regions. Some participants voiced concern about increasing rates of depression and psychological disorders among women and girls in their regions. The need for access to sexual and reproductive health, and to end child, early and forced marriage was stressed, including in humanitarian settings. Speakers also highlighted that transformation of gender norms and gender stereotypes was one of the crucial steps in achieving substantive equality for women and girls. The situation of marginalized groups of women such as women with disabilities and migrant women required targeted attention.

8. Persistent conflicts, ongoing foreign occupation, and the emergence of violent extremism constituted serious obstacles to development and the pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Greater efforts were needed to engage women in peace building and transitional security measures, and to tackle gender stereotypes and discriminatory norms, practices and attitudes.

9. National mechanisms for gender equality continued to be of vital importance for translating political will into concrete measures that promote gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels. Systematic mainstreaming of gender perspectives was necessary throughout all sectors of government, requiring capacity building efforts across all ministries, together with stepped-up efforts to institutionalize gender-sensitive budgeting.

10. Participants underlined the important role of a strong civil society and the participation of women's and feminist groups and the media in the promotion of gender equality, women's empowerment and the human rights of women and girls. States were called upon to provide an enabling environment and avenues for such groups and all other stakeholders to engage with government at all levels in order to bring about needed legal and policy changes for improvements in women's and girls'

lives. Participants also stressed the importance of engaging men and boys in working toward the achievement of gender equality.

11. Speakers reiterated the importance of positioning gender equality at the core of the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and a sustainable development framework. Strong support was expressed for a standalone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment as well as the need to mainstream gender perspectives throughout all goals and targets in the post-2015 development framework, as recommended in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

12. Participants recognized the work of UN-Women and the UN system in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, and the need to forge effective relationships across a broad spectrum of stakeholders for real change. The regional reviews had been instrumental in mobilizing stakeholders at the regional levels, and the momentum generated should contribute to effective cooperation and commitment by all actors in the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

13. The regional commissions as the regional arms of the United Nations reiterated their commitments to support Member States and all stakeholders in implementing progressive agendas for gender equality and women's empowerment, and to help mobilize necessary resources in support of the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Note: Further information on the panel is available by clicking [here](#).

12. Panel 3 : « Resources for gender equality – good practices and strategies for action/the way forward » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

12. Panel 3 : « Resources for gender equality – good practices and strategies for action/the way forward » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Resources for gender equality: Good practices and strategies for action/the way forward

Chair’s summary

1. On 13 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women held a panel discussion on “Resources for gender equality: good practices and strategies for action/the way forward”. The panel was chaired by Mr. Mohamed Elbahi, Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, and was moderated by Ms. Aruna Rao, Executive Director of ‘Gender At Work’. The panellists were: Diane Elson, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Essex, Mr. Mohamed Chafiki, Director of Studies and Financial Forecasts, Ministry of Economy and Finance of Morocco, Ms. Lydia Alpízar Durán, Executive Director of the Association for Women’s Rights in Development, and Ms. Patti O’Neill, Acting Head of Division, Global Partnerships and Policies, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD. The discussion focused on current financing gaps and how to close these gaps, as well as effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms, new partnerships and innovative financing that are needed to realize gender equality commitments. An Issues paper provided the framework for the interactive dialogue, in which 16 government, one regional group and four civil society representatives participated.
2. Speakers underlined the critical importance of mobilizing domestic resources, particularly through tax revenue, to address gender inequality. It was, for example, highlighted that tax revenue in Africa was ten times the volume of official development assistance (ODA) in 2012 and that, if all developing countries were able to generate tax revenue equal to 15 per cent of their national income, they could realize at least an additional USD 198 billion per year, more than all the foreign development assistance combined. Participants emphasized that mobilized resources needed to be allocated efficiently to make a real impact on the lives of women and girls. Speakers agreed on the critical need to engage with finance and sector ministries to ensure that adequate financing is channeled to programmes on gender equality but also to ensure that fiscal policy overall does not undermine the achievement of gender equality objectives. To this end,

* E/CN.6/2015/1.



participants discussed the role of Ministries of Finance, as they provided directives on resource allocation across all sectors. One good practice example of engaging these ministries was the UN-Women and World Bank initiative ‘Gender Equality Community of Practice for Finance Ministers’.

3. The importance of galvanizing political will and building national capacity and ownership for achieving gender equality more effectively was underscored. Addressing gender inequality required a multi-sectoral approach the alignment of public policies with human rights standards. Efficient fiscal policies that increased the quantity of funding for gender equality and also addressed fundamental systemic and structural barriers, including unequal social relations and discriminatory practices against women and girls in the economy and society at large were required. Participants highlighted the importance of gender-responsive legislative reforms to create an enabling environment for the institutionalization of gender equality priorities in public policies and budgets. Many speakers reported on ongoing initiatives on gender-responsive budgeting to mainstream gender equality in planning and budgeting processes and noted the increase in financing for gender equality commitments as a result of these initiatives. At the same time, existing resource gaps in social service provision and infrastructure, including education, health, water and sanitation, roads and electricity were noted, especially in conflict-affected countries. In addition, speakers called for investing in services for women in vulnerable groups, such as ethnic minorities, women with disabilities, and older women. Participants were concerned about the critical under-funding of national mechanisms for gender equality and called for additional resources and capacity building to enhance their effectiveness and influence in national policy and decision-making.
4. Speakers emphasized the importance of official development assistance in achieving gender equality commitments in developing countries, especially in least developed countries. Although there had been an extraordinary upward trend in aid for gender equality since the launch of the Millennium Development Goals, much more effort was required to close gaps in donor spending in priority areas for women and girls, such as economic empowerment, family planning and ending the scourge of violence against women and girls. Participants emphasized the critical need for the donor community to meet the targets on ODA and to supplement such resources with technical assistance and capacity building support. Participants called for all donor support to be aligned with national development priorities, plans and strategies, so as to contribute to the accountability of donors. Evolving partnerships, such as South-South and triangular cooperation are also vital, including for exchanging good practice on financing gender equality.
5. The role of private actors in development financing and financing for gender equality was highlighted. Examples included the funding by financial institutions of programmes for rural women, and support by corporations for women through academic scholarships. Speakers voiced concern that tax evasion and avoidance can significantly reduce revenue available to national governments for development. It was noted that, as a result, governments lose approximately USD 3 trillion in revenue each year. In light of the increasingly important role of private actors as well as public-private partnerships for funding gender equality, there was a need to have good accountability mechanisms in place to ensure these efforts do not contribute to the perpetuation of gender inequality.
6. It was noted that in conflict and post-conflict contexts domestic resources for the promotion of gender equality were either non-existent or extremely limited, and where resources were available, significant bottlenecks persisted in service delivery due to restricted capacity. Accordingly, the links between humanitarian and development financing for gender equality should be explored for the benefit of women. Speakers especially from conflict-affected countries called for a strengthened gender dimension in humanitarian financing. Gaps between policy and financial commitments were particularly pronounced in the area of women and peace and security. It was, for example, pointed out that 15 years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security, only 2 per cent of aid to peace and security in fragile states was targeted to gender equality.
7. Participants agreed on the need for improved data and monitoring systems to ensure transparency and accountability in achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment. Speakers called for the use of

gender equality indicators and for enhanced technical knowledge and tools to conduct gender-sensitive analyses and assessments to determine the quantity and quality of resources allocated for gender equality. Speakers discussed the importance of making budgets more transparent and tracking gender equality allocations in public spending and in ODA. Ministries should, for example, make budgets available and accessible to all citizens through so-called 'Open Budgets'. Civil society had an important role to play towards ensuring that resources were allocated and spent in a transparent manner, with greater accountability. Given a lack of capacity at all levels, particularly the national level, in data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting, speakers called for strengthened partnerships and technical support, including from UN-Women.

8. Participants were concerned about the lack of, and under-funding of civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations. Women's organizations required greater financial investment at all levels, including at the grassroots, as well as improved capacity, to participate in local and national planning and budgeting. There were also calls on donors to increase funding for women's organization and women's investments.
9. In order to respond to the identified gaps and challenges in financing gender equality, speakers called for a comprehensive approach to mobilize maximum resources for gender equality through all policy tools at national level, in all countries. Such actions should include the re-orientation of macroeconomic policies to increase fiscal space, as well as efforts to broaden the tax base, improve tax compliance, and address the implicit and explicit gender biases in tax systems. Resources generated through tax should be used to advance gender equality and women's rights. Implementing gender-responsive budgeting and strengthening accountability mechanisms would ensure more efficient, transparent, and effective financing. Donors should meet their ODA commitments, ensure a stronger focus on sectors where spending for gender equality remains inadequate, such as for women and peace and security, women's economic empowerment, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and efforts to end violence against women and girls. They should also ensure the integration of gender perspectives in all their development initiatives. Private actors, including the private sector, should align its financing for gender equality to national development strategies, and in line with human rights obligations. Engaging civil society organizations in all aspects of financing for gender equality was key to progress. More robust monitoring systems should be developed to measure the impact of programmes and ensure financing is targeted to meeting gender equality commitments. These systems should be complemented with increased capacity at all levels to collect, analyze and report relevant data.

13. Panel 4 : « *The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

13. Panel 4 : « *The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality* » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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The responsibility of men and boys in achieving gender equality

Chair’s summary

1. On 16 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women held a conversation on: “The responsibilities of men and boys in achieving gender equality”. The conversation was chaired by H.E. Mr. Ruben Zamora (El Salvador), Vice-Chair of the Commission, and was moderated by Ms. Noelene Nabilovou, Diverse Voices and Action for Equality (DIVA), Fiji. The panellists were: Mr. Soren Feldbaek Winther, Special Advisor at the Danish Ministry of Gender Equality, H.E. Mr Henry MacDonald, Permanent Representative of Suriname to the United Nations, Mr. Gary Barker, international Director and founder of Promundo, United States of America; Mr. Bafana Khumalo, Senior Programme Specialist and co-founder of Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa; Mr. Natko Geres, Director of Status M Centre, Croatia. The respondents were: H.E. Mr. Antonio Gumende, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations, Mr. Hiroshi Minami, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Ms. Kate Gilmore, Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, Mr. Gary Cohen, USA, Executive Vice President of Becton, Dickinson and Company and Founder of the Together For Girls Partnership, and Ms. Ayla Goksel, CEO for Mother Child Education Foundation, Turkey. Representatives of 22 Member States, the European Union and one non-governmental organization participated in the interactive discussion.
2. Participants welcomed the increasing attention to and understanding of the

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- importance of engaging men and boys in gender equality, and the growing attention to this issue in intergovernmental fora. The growing evidence of what has worked in policies and programmes constitutes a solid basis to foster and expand initiatives developed and implemented so far, and highlights the urgency to bring this work to scale to enhance its impact. Participants provided examples of initiatives to foster the positive engagement of men and boys ranging from community level initiatives to national action plans. These included dedicated programmes on eliminating violence against women, fatherhood and positive masculinities, parental leave policies, steps to encourage men to be caregivers and kindergarten teachers, men as equal partners in regard to sexual and reproductive health and contraceptive use, as well as in HIV prevention and support.
3. Participants confirmed that social norms can change, since roles are socially defined and changeable. Social constructs and related stereotypes can and must be transformed in the home, in the community, in local and national institutions, through legal and policy frameworks and across private and public spaces. The transformation of unequal power relations between women and men at individual, community, social and institutional level was key to sustainable development.
 4. It was noted that men as individuals are also positively affected by gender equality, as it contributes to abandoning risky masculinities and stereotypes of dominance, toughness and violence. This does, however, also require action and support in favour of the “man to be”, as social pressure and expectations needed to be mitigated through peer support. In order to enable a qualitative shift, the concepts of protector, benevolent father/partner needed to shift in favour of responsibility, rights, equality and partnerships.
 5. Participants emphasized the important role of early socialization of boys and girls in shaping identity and transforming gender relations to prevent and eliminate discrimination and violence and build relationships of respect. Educational programmes in the home, in schools and in places where children are socialized are key to developing non-discriminatory attitudes and behaviour. Quality comprehensive sexuality education needed to become an inherent component of formal and informal curricula in order to build positive and respectful behaviour of boys and girls, prevent violence, enhance adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health and ensure adherence to, retention in and completion of education programmes.
 6. The media, sport and education institutions had a prominent role to play in shaping positive cultural shifts. The increasingly complex role of media and social media in creating cultures of equality specifically of youth and facilitating women and youth’s access to services and opportunities required stronger investment and attention. Participants also highlighted that the private sector can play an important role in changing codes of conduct in work places and in promoting women’s leadership through the transformation of corporate values and culture. The engagement of religious leaders as active promoters of transformative change was critical in relation to harmful practices and traditional social norms that prevent the full realization of the rights of young women and girls.

7. Civil society, including strong and cohesive civil society movements can enable transformation and cultural shift. The role of civil society in holding government accountable, transforming mind-sets and building alliances and consensus on priorities for the achievement of gender equality was stressed.
8. The importance of data for a better understanding of men's and women's gendered roles was recognized. Consequently, participants called for efforts to build the evidence on trends of men's work in the home and on time use by men and women. Better evidence was also needed in regards to prevention and elimination of violence against women, attitudes and behaviours towards sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the redistribution of unpaid care work. Such evidence can play an important role in overcoming barriers to change.
9. Participants called for a more consistent and sustainable engagement with men and boys. Initiatives to engage men and boys needed to be expanded and scaled up, and integrated with the existing work on gender equality. At the same time, participants emphasized that investing in men and boys should not be to the detriment of resources allocated to women's organizations, women's empowerment programmes or gender equality mechanisms. Rather, additional resources needed to be provided to implement specific policies and strategies to focus on the responsibility of men and boys in the achievement of gender equality. Funding was required for comprehensive approaches to the engagement of men and boys and to complement and strengthen existing systems and instruments in place to achieve gender equality.
10. According to participants, governments must demonstrate political will and accountability for implementation and enforcement of coherent legal and policy frameworks that guarantee women's human rights, promote gender equality and address gender inequalities. Violence against women and girls, harmful practices, sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's access to and control over assets and productive resources, girls' and women's rights to a quality education at all levels, women's access to decent work and the elimination of the gender wage gap, women's universal access to social protection and services, women's disproportionate share of unpaid care work, and women's leadership and partnership at all levels were mentioned as the primary areas that had to be addressed without delay.
11. Participants called for gender equality to be integrated as a stand-alone goal in the post-2015 development agenda, as well as across all the other goals and targets. Including indicators on men's responsibility for gender equality in the sustainable development goals would send an important signal, strengthen accountability and contribute to the transformation of unequal gender relations.
12. Investment in gender equality and women's empowerment was also called for. Participants called for a stronger inclusion of gender equality programmes in existing financing for development frameworks. It was recognized that the current investments in gender equality needed to be expanded.

14. Panel 5 : « *Changing social norms to achieve gender equality : expectations and opportunities* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

14. Panel 5 : « *Changing social norms to achieve gender equality : expectations and opportunities* » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Changing social norms to achieve gender equality: expectations and opportunities

Chair’s summary

1. On 16 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women held an interactive panel on: “Changing social norms to achieve gender equality: expectations and opportunities”. The Vice-Chair of the Commission, Pille Kesler (Estonia), chaired the panel; and the Director Regions ReFocus 2015 from Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, Anita Nayar (India/USA), moderated the discussion. The panellists were: Stephanie Seguino, Professor of Economics at the University of Vermont (USA); Nafissatou J. Diop, Senior Adviser, Coordinator UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on female genital mutilation/cutting: accelerating change (UNFPA); Olena Suslova, Founding Director, Women’s Information Consultative Center (Ukraine); Elisa Salinas, CEO, The Women’s Project (Mexico); and Chi Yvonne Leina, World Pulse (Cameroon).

2. Participants identified a number of achievements and good practices, challenges and gaps in addressing social norms and gender stereotypes that are entrenched in every social interaction, as well as in formal and informal institutions, constituting serious impediments to gender equality.

3. Many participants noted that although progress has been made, in particular with regards to girls’ education, women still lag behind in their participation in the labour market and the overall economy. Social norms and gender stereotypes have led to women having lower paid jobs, fewer training opportunities and less access to

* E/CN.6/2015/1.



productive resources.

4. Speakers highlighted that social norms and stereotypes are socially constructed and therefore can be changed. They are manifested in the way women and men are portrayed in mass media; considered within education systems and curricula; and targeted in laws and policies and their implementation. In addition, participants stressed that social norms and stereotypes are interwoven with other socio-economic factors, such as poverty, race, ethnicity, disability and social inclusion which reinforce gender inequality and discrimination.

5. Speakers agreed that change does not happen by itself but requires political commitment, targeted actions and funding. Gender-responsive laws and policies can enable women to fully participate in the economy. Several participants highlighted good practices to ensure increased access of women to employment and an inclusive workplace environment, including equal pay, parental leave, publicly-funded childcare, paid sick leave, affirmative hiring and promotion. Participants identified discriminatory laws, policies and practices in regards to women's access to credit and land as main obstacles for women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment.

6. Participants stressed the importance of increased participation of women in the labour market, through changes in corporate and public policies and practices, which result in gradual social norms change with increased acceptance of women as equal actors in the economy. Participants mentioned the adoption of affirmative laws and policies, including quotas and other incentives, as particularly effective in reducing the longstanding gender gaps in leadership roles in the private and public sectors.

7. While positive social and gender norms could contribute to family cohesion and cultural identity, it was noted that harmful social norms persist resulting in early marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, breast ironing, and other forms of violence. Participants highlighted the importance of criminalizing these harmful practices through legislation. Legislation, however, has to be fully enforced with the full engagement of all stakeholders at all levels, including in the community.

8. Participants stressed that the implementation of gender-responsive laws has to be complemented by awareness-raising, capacity-building and engagement at community level in order to achieve full support, make positive changes and mitigate backlash.

9. Participants added that everyone has a role to play, including men and boys, women and girls, religious and community leaders, public and private sectors, as well as civil society organizations in changing social norms. Participants highlighted the need to engage specific groups of the community with greater determination, including older women who may have suffered a lifetime of discrimination. Men and boys should be engaged as both beneficiaries of and protagonists in making change.

10. Examples were provided of effective strategies that moved away from a focus on negative terms and instead emphasize positive language and messages. Such an approach would contribute to greater wellbeing, more opportunities and growth in the economy, and more equal and prosperous societies. Examination and knowledge of the local context was important for identifying effective entry-points for change.

11. Role models can help showcase what is possible, support and connect with young women and men, and create a wider network of change agents. Examples included women working in non-traditional fields, such as in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). These role modelling efforts need to be complemented by targeted awareness-raising, training and mentoring of women and girls to ensure that they can access and succeed in these areas.

12. Several participants identified a gender-responsive education system, including formal and informal, as the key entry point for systematically addressing and preventing discriminatory and harmful social norms and gender stereotypes and for encouraging attitudes of equality and respect for human rights. A few participants highlighted the need for reform of the educational system in all aspects, including the development of gender-sensitive curricula, reflecting women's and men's diverse experiences and roles in society, training of teachers, as well as active engagement of parents.

13. Participants highlighted the importance of children knowing their rights from an early age to be able to challenge discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes. While parents play an important role as change agents, working with children through bottom-up approaches has proven effective in equipping them with new and positive norms and messages in dialogues with their parents and families.

14. Several participants acknowledged the role that media and the advertising industry can play in shaping people's perceptions, social norms and gender stereotypes. These industries can use their power to challenge, rather than reinforce, these norms and stereotypes. Some participants noted progress in their countries, as television and the film industry are gradually portraying women and men in non-traditional roles, including men sharing responsibilities for childcare and domestic work, resulting in positive social norms. Public service announcements and advertising campaigns can help in raising awareness of prevailing stereotypes, and participants watched examples of such spots from one country.

15. According to participants, information and communication technologies (ICTs), including the internet and social media, can be powerful means for women to claim their rights, dismantle discriminatory norms, and break the silence and fear of violence and discrimination. These new media provide a global space for women to express their concerns, reach out to other women for advice and solidarity, access role models and good practices, and be exposed to alternative views. ICTs have helped women gain confidence, exerted influence towards positive changes in societies, and have been instrumental in creating gender responsive content and mobilizing people for gender equality advocacy, including at the grassroots level. Nonetheless, concern was expressed that technologies are also bringing new means of control, surveillance and exploitation, and new forms of discriminatory norms and stereotypes as well as online violence.

16. Participants acknowledged the challenges that many women face in accessing the internet, especially in rural areas. Even when internet is available, women may lack access due to prohibitive costs, unreliable connectivity, or cultural norms that discourage them from male-dominated cyber cafes. Some of these restrictions may be overcome as the use of mobile phones becomes widespread in both urban and rural areas. However, large-scale investments, including in form of digital literacy training and women-only cyber cafes, will be critical to ensure that women and girls

fully benefit from and leverage online information, knowledge, networking, and learning opportunities.

17. Participants stressed the need for robust monitoring and evaluation of laws and policies, as well as systematic collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data, in order to measure any impact on gender equality and changes in norms and stereotypes. This needs to be combined with gender-responsive planning and budgeting to strengthen accountability.

18. Participants urged States and United Nations agencies to strengthen sharing of information, experiences, lessons learned and good practices across countries and regions for amplifying positive change and for evidence-based decision-making. Participants requested in particular UN-Women to share good practices and analysis on the effectiveness of measures in changing social norms and gender stereotypes, including in relation to older women.

Note: for further information on the panel please [click here](#).

15. Panel 6 : « *Building the evidence and monitoring results : gender statistics and indicators* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

15. Panel 6 : « *Building the evidence and monitoring results : gender statistics and indicators* » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Building the evidence and monitoring results: gender statistics and indicators

Chair’s summary

1. On 17 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive panel discussion on the topic of “Building the evidence and monitoring results: gender statistics and indicators”. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Christine Loew, Vice-Chair of the Commission, Switzerland. The Executive Secretary of the National Institute for Women in Mexico, Marcela Eternod Arámburu, moderated the discussion. The panellists were: the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Dr. Keiko Osaki-Tomita; Statistician at the General Statistics Office of Vietnam, Nguyen Thi Viet Nga; the Statistician-General of South Africa, Pali Lehohla; and Senior Statistician and Economist in the Development Data Group, World Bank, Masako Hiraga. Contributions to the discussion included interventions from 30 Member States and one regional group and one civil society intervention.
2. Participants in the interactive panel discussion identified a number of achievements, including good practices and lessons learned, challenges and gaps in the generation, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics in the context of monitoring and accelerating the implementation of the Platform for Action and the future post-2015

* E/CN.6/2015/1.



development agenda, and highlighted priority areas for the future.

Gender statistics as a priority for accelerated implementation

3. Participants unanimously confirmed the importance of high quality, comprehensive and regular gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. Several participants emphasized the need for data to inform policy and decision making on gender equality, and for evidence-based planning, programming and evaluation. Examples were provided where data for specific areas had influenced policy development by helping to identify where to focus initiative, such as in the areas of girls' education and vocational training of women in tertiary and industrial sectors. According to participants, gender statistics and indicators play a crucial role in monitoring and driving progress towards gender equality, where an example demonstrated how data informed interventions to drive down rates of child and maternal mortality.
4. Participants recognized the urgency of increasing the quality, coverage and availability of gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data to effectively monitor progress on gender equality, women's empowerment and the human rights of women and girls in the post-2015 development agenda. There was widespread support for a standalone goal on gender equality in the new framework; with equal emphasis given to the importance of gender mainstreaming throughout the agenda and across targets.

Increasing efforts to institutionalize gender statistics

5. Participants emphasized the central role of national statistical offices for leading the production, coordination, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics. National statistical offices were recognized for their critical role in maintaining official, consistent and regularly collected data to monitor the status of men and women, inform policy formulation across sectors and track results on gender equality over time. Countries highlighted specific initiatives to build gender-responsive statistical systems such as the establishment of gender statistics sections or focal points, the inclusion of gender statistics as a priority in national statistical plans and the development of specific policies and guidelines on the production of gender statistics.
6. Participants recognized that the production, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics requires strong partnerships and collaboration at international, regional, national and decentralized levels across sectors and with civil society and women's organizations. Several examples were provided of mechanisms to support collaboration, for example, bi-lateral arrangements among key ministries, such as national gender equality machineries and national statistical offices; the establishment of national commissions, inter-agency groups, councils or task forces on gender statistics; and the establishment of multi-stakeholder observatories.
7. Participants noted the importance of partnerships at the regional and international level to facilitate technical exchange and sharing of tools and methodologies, including through the Inter-agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics of the United Nations Statistical Division and the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality Initiative.

Innovations in the collection, production and dissemination of gender statistics

8. A number of countries reported efforts to regularly report on national gender indicators and the establishment of databases and other central repositories. In many cases such efforts are aligned with regionally or internationally agreed frameworks, such as the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and the minimum set of gender indicators. Governments have collected data through a variety of instruments, including the Demographic and Health Surveys, Living Standard Measurement Surveys, the World Health Organization Survey on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women, the Gender-based Violence Information System, and labour force surveys among other dedicated surveys, or research on targeted social and economic issues. Many participants highlighted specific areas of innovation in producing gender statistics such as violence against women, labour force, time-use, work-life balance, asset ownership and women's experiences of poverty.
9. Efforts to disseminate data on gender equality have increased, with several participants providing examples of monitoring reports, annual report cards and gender-based factsheets, and publications containing data on a range of topics. Participants also gave examples of the development of specialized databases in specific areas of gender equality such as the representation of women in public life, economics, and decision-making.

Gaps and challenges in gender statistics

10. Participants emphasized that while progress has been made since the Fourth World Conference on Women in the collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics primarily in the areas of health, education and to some extent in regard to labour force participation and violence against women, significant gaps and challenges persist.
11. A number of countries underscored the importance of improving the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of administrative data, qualitative data, and survey data on critical gender equality issues. For example, participants raised concern over the lack of gender statistics related to the economy, with references to macroeconomics, intra-household allocation of resources and power, unpaid care work and assets; women's decision-making in public and private domains; access to and quality of services; and time use. Participants also highlighted challenges in ethically measuring all forms of violence against women and girls in different settings, noting the need for new data that could specifically inform efforts to prevent violence. According to participants, greater attention must be paid to the underlying drivers of inequality across social, economic, civil and political spheres of life with participants emphasizing the urgent need to capture and monitor trends in discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes. The lack of data on the gendered impact of climate change and disasters was also raised together with calls for action.
12. Participants identified the lack of disaggregation of data by sex, as well as age, disability, location and other grounds of discrimination as a major obstacle to comprehensively capturing the scope of gender inequalities experienced by

marginalized groups of women. The lack of data on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender women was highlighted as a gap that required attention. The difficulties of collecting data in humanitarian contexts were also raised and the resulting challenges for targeted responses.

13. Participants voiced concern about one-off surveys and the absence of systematic and regular data in many areas. In this respect, the lack of technical capacity, financial and human resources dedicated to gender statistics was emphasized as a major obstacle. Many participants noted the need for greater coordination between statisticians and policy makers so as to enhance the usefulness of data and their impact on policy.

Priorities to advance gender statistics and indicators

14. Participants identified several priorities to advance gender statistics and indicators in the context of accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the post-2015 development agenda. Participants called for increased investments in statistical capacity at the national, regional and international levels and for the production of gender statistics. Specifically, several participants highlighted the need to build the capacity of national statistical agencies and line ministries to integrate gender perspectives in their national survey instruments (household, labour force and other surveys and censuses). In addition, the need for country-level technical and financial capacity to produce high quality statistics through administrative sources, such as civil registration systems, was also highlighted. Many Member States called on United Nations agencies, donors and the World Bank to assist with financial resources, capacity building and technical support.
15. Participants confirmed that data and statistical requirements for the post-2015 development agenda will be substantial, particularly for monitoring gender equality across all goals in the new framework. Several participants noted that the minimum set of 52 gender indicators provide a strong basis for monitoring gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda. However, participants noted that urgent action is needed to address gaps where statistics are not produced regularly by countries. The need to develop, as a matter of priority, new standards and methodologies to address data gaps was also highlighted.
16. Along with increased resources and capacity building, participants called for increased commitment to gender statistics from policy-makers, particularly from stakeholders across different sectors. High-level political leadership was urgently needed to increase coordination across government ministries on the production of gender statistics. Further, some participants emphasized the need for enhanced dialogue between users and producers of gender statistics. Priority attention also needs to be devoted to better dissemination and communication of sex-disaggregated data for increasing the use of gender statistics in policy-making.

16. Panel 7 : « Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

16. Panel 7 : « Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls

Chair’s summary

1. On 18 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women held an interactive panel on: “Realizing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls”. Ms. Pille Kesler (Estonia), Vice-Chair of the Commission chaired the panel, and Ms. Alda Facio, a member of the Working Group on Discrimination against women in law and in practice, served as Moderator. The panellists were: Ms. Kim Eun Mee (Republic of Korea), Korea International Cooperation Agency; Ms. Anasztazia Nagy (Hungary), Roma Education Fund; Ms. Teresia Otieno (Kenya), International Steering Committee of the International Community of Women Living with HIV; and Ms. Petrona Laura Reyes Quino (Guatemala), a member of the Mayan Organization of Women Living with Disabilities of Guatemala. Representatives of 24 Member States and 3 non-governmental organizations participated in the inter-active discussion.
2. Participants reaffirmed the right of marginalized and vulnerable populations to all human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in international treaties and national laws. They recognized that marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls are a heterogeneous group whose wide ranging needs must be taken into account in development, and their diverse backgrounds and characteristics regarded as assets. Such groups include women with disabilities, indigenous, minority and migrant women, lesbian, bisexual,

* E/CN.6/2015/1.



transgender and intersex persons, migrants, asylum seekers, internally displaced women, women living with HIV, young women, single women, older women, widows, and rural women. Considerations of intersectionality – the multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination and inequality that marginalized, vulnerable and minority women and girls face because of their gender in addition to their membership in a vulnerable or excluded group – must be taken into account in the design, implementation and monitoring of all policies and programmatic interventions and strategies to enable all women and girls to enjoy their human rights. Education was a key tool for overcoming marginalization, on all grounds. National budgets needed to take into account a gender perspective through, for example, gender-responsive budgeting and also include a focus on marginalized and disadvantaged women.

3. Participants discussed efforts at the national level to promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities. The national constitutions of a number of states recognize the rights of persons with disabilities. Laws have been adopted and national action plans elaborated that aim to promote the rights of persons living with disabilities. Task forces and committees have been created to provide institutional frameworks for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Participants also gave examples of measures that had been introduced to provide social protection for persons with disabilities through cash and in-kind measures such as the provision of spectacles, mobility aids and hearing devices. Measures specifically targeting women and girls with disabilities included the establishment of training centres, scholarships and microfinance programmes. Efforts had also been made to improve accessibility to transportation, buildings and other facilities for persons with disabilities as well as in infrastructural development, and in rebuilding areas affected by conflict and natural disaster. The needs of caregivers for persons with disabilities also received attention.
4. Participants expressed concern that the risk of experiencing violence was particularly high for women and girls with disabilities in both developing and developed countries. For this reason, public education and awareness raising in combatting violence against women, and violence against women and girls with disabilities in particular, required high priority.
5. The condition of marginalization and vulnerability including the intersection of vulnerabilities for indigenous women and girls in rural and remote areas was discussed. Particular concern was raised about the impact of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation on these groups of women and girls considering their role in agricultural food production and energy management. Women's economic empowerment was a common priority of many Member States, recognizing that poverty contributes to marginalization and vulnerability among women in rural areas. Participants reported on a number of efforts that specifically target women and girls in rural areas, especially through promotion of sustainable livelihood opportunities. Programmes to support productivity and access to markets, access to microcredit and insurance, and enhancing women's value addition in the production chain were among the examples that had expanded such opportunities for women.

6. Improving access to health care in rural areas was another area of action that contributed to the realization of the rights of marginalized women and girls, for example, through mobile health care facilities. Another priority area was improving education for girls in rural areas. Policies to strengthen exercise of land rights for women and girls also contributed to realization of rights. Infrastructural development such as rural electrification, the expansion of roads, as well as improvements in housing were identified as particularly beneficial to women and girls in rural and remote areas. Supporting women's organizations and self-help groups as well as the political participation of women in local governance structures were further strategies that had contributed to overcoming the marginalization of rural women and girls.
7. Speakers highlighted the continuing urgency of addressing gender inequalities and challenging power relationships that fuel HIV, including through engaging young women and girls living with HIV particularly in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Participants observed that women living with HIV continue to experience a range of obstacles to achieving their highest attainable standard of health, and concern was expressed about violations of their sexual and reproductive rights, through practices such as forced sterilization. Women living with HIV also experienced relatively higher rates of maternal mortality and a high incidence of institutional and intimate partner violence. In response, support programmes for women living with HIV had been put in place, including access to nutrition programmes, antenatal and postnatal care, income-generation activities, conditional cash transfers, as means of enhancing the livelihoods of women living with HIV. At the same time, participants called for upscaling and replication of these promising programmes and good practices.
8. Participants emphasized the need to realize the sexual and reproductive health and rights of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls throughout their life-cycle. The right of women to control their own bodies and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, was noted, devoid of coercion, discrimination and violence. Upholding sexual and reproductive health and rights was essential for HIV prevention and the protection of women migrants. Participants therefore called for the implementation of quality and comprehensive sexuality education at all levels of education for girls and boys to equip them with scientific knowledge about their sexuality and health and to enable them make informed decisions.
9. Ethnic minority women encountered a specific set of challenges in the realization of their rights, as was elaborated with the example of Roma ethnic minority women and girls. Roma women and girls suffer multiple and intersectional discrimination due to cultural practices such as early marriage, early school dropout rates, youth caring for younger siblings, violence, and seclusion from city centres. It was recommended that governments design specific actions and strategies for ethnic minority women such as Roma women and girls, taking into particular account the intersectional discrimination faced by these groups. In order to overcome marginalization and discrimination, speakers called for, and gave examples of second chance programmes to allow girls who marry early to re-enter the education system and to guarantee educational outcomes. Other steps should include efforts to

provide paid decent work and opportunities to participate in planning and decision-making processes in policy and legislation. Awareness campaigns to bring attention to the multiple and intersecting discrimination that Roma women and girls face were highlighted.

10. As participants welcomed progress in policy and legislative reforms, they also voiced concern about the significant gaps in implementation of those that address the needs of marginalized and vulnerable women and girls. Speakers called for cross-sectoral policy initiatives as well as partnership between government, international institutions and civil society for the benefit of marginalized and disadvantaged women and girls. Governments and international organizations should allocate resources that specifically target women and girls who face multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination. The importance of data collection, disaggregated by a number of factors, to facilitate the understanding of the complexities of intersecting forms of discrimination and to help in framing national responses to reflect the needs of the marginalized women and girls was underlined.
11. A key part in all strategies for transformative change was the activism, engagement and participation of the women who experience vulnerability and marginalization, and of their organizations. Such transformative change required both top down and bottom up approaches, including attitudinal and social change, identification and recognition of female role models, creating adequate spaces for marginalized and vulnerable women and girls to participate in decision-making at all levels, strengthening the social protection floor and access to social services and productive resources, data collection, as well as policy development and constitutional and legislative reforms.

17. Panel 8 : « The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming : a dialogue with functional commissions » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

17. Panel 8 : « The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming : a dialogue with functional commissions » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming – a dialogue with functional commissions

Chair’s summary

1. On 19 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive panel on the topic: “The Commission on the Status of Women as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming: a dialogue with functional commissions”. The panel was chaired by H.E. Ms. Kanda Vajrabhaya, Chair of the Commission, and was moderated by H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik, President of the Economic and Social Council. The panellists were: H.E. Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet (Belgium), Chair of the Commission on Population and Development; H.E. Ms. Simona Mirela Miculescu (Romania), Chair of the Commission for Social Development; H.E. Ms. Bente Angell-Hansen (Norway), Vice-Chair of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice who participated via video; Ms. Victoria Romero (Mexico), Vice-Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development; and Ms. Chandra Roy-Henriksen, Chief of the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, representing Ms. Mariam Wallet Mohamed Aboubakrine (Mali), Member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

2. The Beijing Platform for Action called on Governments and other actors “to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made of the effects on women and men, respectively, and inequality is not perpetuated.” In its agreed conclusions of 1997 on gender mainstreaming, the Economic and Social

* E/CN.6/2015/1.



Council defined gender mainstreaming as a “process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.” All intergovernmental bodies, including the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, are called upon to mainstream gender perspectives into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates. The Commission on the Status of Women functions as a catalyst for gender mainstreaming and works to enhance the attention of other intergovernmental bodies to gender equality issues.

3. The functional commissions have taken a range of efforts to mainstream a gender perspective into their work. The Commission on Population and Development, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and the Commission for Social Development have discussed the gender dimensions of issues such as poverty eradication, social integration, decent work, science and technology, and ageing. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has considered various aspects of criminal justice for women, and of violence against women, including trafficking. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in particular, has a dedicated Gender Advisory Board, established in 1995, to review reports and resolutions in regard to the gender dimensions of science and technology policies. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples dedicated its third session entirely to women. Functional commissions have held expert thematic discussions that have addressed gender dimensions, including those affecting marginalized groups of women and girls such as indigenous women or women with disabilities. The commissions engage with civil society, including women’s organizations that have given further visibility to gender equality issues.

4. Resolutions of functional commissions and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have increasingly incorporated a gender perspective, highlighting the opportunities and challenges faced by women in the areas of poverty eradication, migration, health, urbanization, ageing, and gender gaps in science, technology and innovation. Commissions have also adopted gender-specific resolutions on violence against women, trafficking in human persons or sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Speakers welcomed resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women that addressed priority issues of other functional commissions were welcomed. Given the importance of data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity to inform policy-making and to close specific gender gaps, speakers called upon the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission to continue to give priority to such data and to gender statistics and indicators.

5. Speakers recognized the importance of gender mainstreaming in the future implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and supported in this regard the proposal for a stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls as well as for integrating gender-sensitive targets in other goals.

6. Participants agreed that gender mainstreaming is a strategy that is applicable to all areas and therefore must be an integral part of the entire work of the

functional commissions. Speakers supported closer collaboration on a range of matters and through different means, and encouraged further harmonization and coordination among the functional commissions on themes and issues. They recommended closer collaboration on working methods and work programmes to ensure complementarity and sector-specific value added. Enhanced coordination should aim to maximize synergies among the functional commissions. Joint discussions could be held regularly on common thematic areas, taking into account also the annual main theme of the Economic and Social Council. To facilitate stronger coordination, a mapping of topics and processes of the functional commissions could be undertaken. In addition, gender focal points could be appointed in the functional commissions to improve gender mainstreaming in their work. Increased collaboration could also facilitate common messaging on gender equality in regard to the discussions on post-2015 development agenda and other intergovernmental processes.

7. The important role of the respective secretariats of the functional commissions in facilitating gender mainstreaming in their work was highlighted. Speakers emphasized the need for reports of the Secretary-General to reflect gender issues, and for commission secretariats to work collaboratively and identify common topics for discussions. Secretariats of functional commissions also needed to provide the necessary support to the commissions. It was also suggested that commission secretariats should be represented in the United Nations Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.

8. Participants welcomed the discussion with the chairs and vice-chairs of the functional commissions during this session of the Commission on the Status of Women and applauded the role of UN-Women in facilitating such a discussion and in providing technical expertise on gender mainstreaming. They encouraged a continuation of such dialogues among the functional commissions and proposed to consider conducting similar dialogues on other cross-cutting themes. Beyond the work of the functional commissions, participants called on Member States to demonstrate political leadership to ensure a holistic approach to gender mainstreaming across sectors, and in all intergovernmental processes and for providing secure space to civil society organizations in all fora.

9. Speakers provided examples of how they were mainstreaming gender equality across sectors at the national level. These included putting in place institutional mechanisms such as women's affairs or gender advisory offices, the appointment of gender focal points across ministries to support the integration of gender mainstreaming in policies, plans and programmes; adopting the methodology of gender-responsive budgeting; putting in place mechanisms for monitoring and accountability including by collecting sex- and age-disaggregated data, and instituting regular reporting on gender mainstreaming efforts and results by each governmental agency.

10. Participants identified concrete actions to ensure successful gender mainstreaming, including skills training and capacity building on gender analysis, collection and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data, and integrating a gender perspective in monitoring and evaluations. In addition to gender mainstreaming, speakers also called for a human rights-based approach to policy.

18. Panel 9 : « *Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals : lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change* » : samenvatting door de voorzitter (alleen beschikbaar in het Engels)

18. Panel 9 : « *Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals : lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change* » : synthèse du président (disponible uniquement en anglais)

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Managing the transition from Millennium Development Goals to sustainable development goals: lessons learned for gender equality from the Millennium Development Goals and galvanizing transformative change

Chair’s summary

1. On 19 March 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive panel discussion on the topic of “Managing the transition from MDGs to SDGs: Lessons learned for gender equality from the MDGs to galvanize transformative change”. The meeting was chaired by Mohamed ElBahi, Vice-Chair of the Commission, Sudan. Senior Research Fellow, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, moderated the discussion. The panellists were: former professor of public policy, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, and adjunct professor of global health and population, Harvard University, Gita Sen; Noelene Nabulivou, of Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Fiji, and associate of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era; president, Center for the Study of Justice and Resolution 1325, Democratic Republic of Congo, Irène Esambo; and, UN Senior Coordinator, “Fit for Purpose” for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, John Hendra. Contributions to the discussion included interventions from 17 Member States, one regional group and two civil society organizations. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, provided closing remarks.

* E/CN.6/2015/1.



2. Participants in the interactive panel discussion focussed on the lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from a gender perspective and identified priorities for ensuring the effective implementation of the future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for women and girls.

Gender equality as a central priority for the Sustainable Development Goals

3. There was widespread confirmation for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls to be a central priority in the future SDGs. Participants agreed on the need for a standalone goal on gender equality that expands on the areas covered by the MDGs. In this respect, many participants highlighted the importance of completing the unfinished business of the MDGs, with reference to areas such as maternal mortality, access to family planning, women's political participation, water and sanitation, poverty eradication, access to decent work and quality education for all. Looking ahead, there was support for a more comprehensive approach to gender equality in the SDGs, as reflected in the proposed SDG 5 of the Open Working Group on "Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls".
4. Participants emphasized that to achieve sustainable development and human rights for all, gender inequalities must be addressed in all three dimensions – economic, social and environmental; and that systematic gender mainstreaming through goals, targets and indicators across the framework was essential to ensure the integration of a gender perspective more broadly.
5. Participants agreed that it was important for the future agenda to look beyond national averages to ensure that the goals and targets are implemented and monitored for women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.
6. Several participants highlighted the importance of all human rights to be central to the implementation of the SDGs. Specifically, the importance of aligning with and building on existing frameworks such as the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was emphasized.

Stronger monitoring and accountability mechanisms as a priority

7. Participants emphasized need for stronger monitoring mechanisms and systems of accountability to ensure global commitments on women and girls are realized in the post-2015 context. There was a particular emphasis on mechanisms to ensure systematic gender mainstreaming across all policies and programmes. Examples of effective accountability systems and mechanisms of monitoring raised include parliamentary reviews, peer-review mechanisms, inter-ministerial taskforces for monitoring of goals and robust systems of national reporting. Participants also recommended that human rights treaty bodies and mechanisms such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Universal Periodic Review could be used more effectively in monitoring efforts.

8. A view was expressed that a significant challenge for effectively monitoring progress towards gender equality, women's empowerment and the human rights of women and girls, is the lack of quality sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics. In this regard, the need for investments to increase statistical capacity for measuring and understanding gender inequalities in a comprehensive manner and to monitor progress and evaluate the implementation of all the SDGs for women and girls was proposed. Disaggregation by multiple factors to monitor progress for the most marginalized groups of women and girls was also mentioned.
9. Participants also acknowledged the role of the United Nations system in supporting all countries, in delivering on the SDGs for women and girls and called on the United Nations system to support national planning and reporting to implement the SDGs as well as the establishment of partnerships.
10. Participants also confirmed the vital role of women's civil society organizations in raising gender-specific concerns and monitoring the implementation of policies and programmes. Several participants acknowledged the need to increase the space, resources, and support for women's civil society organizations.

Investments needed to match the ambition of the future agenda

11. The lack of resources for the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls was highlighted as a major obstacle for achieving the targets. Participants gave examples of insufficient resources allocated to the implementation of gender equality laws, policies and national action plans, as well as for national gender equality mechanisms. They also noted low levels of resources allocated to sectors such as social protection, health, education and water and sanitation.
12. Increasing investments in gender equality was emphasized as an urgent priority for effectively implementing the SDGs. Participants agreed that the future agenda requires domestic resource mobilization to increase allocations to gender equality across all sectors in national budgets, as well as the increased official development assistance for gender equality. The importance of south-south cooperation was also highlighted.
13. Participants also raised the need to ensure greater alignment between macroeconomic policies and gender equality and sustainable development outcomes. Participants stressed the need for macroeconomic policies to expand fiscal space to increase investments in gender equality. Gender-responsive budgeting and planning was highlighted as an effective strategy for monitoring investments in gender equality and ensuring transparency.

The need for an enabling environment for gender equality

14. Participants emphasized that creating an enabling environment for gender equality needs to be a crucial priority for the SDGs to be effectively implemented for women and girls. Participants drew attention to the negative impacts of the 2007/2008 financial crisis on the achievement of the MDGs for women and girls and stressed the need to build a global economic architecture, including a fair and equitable international trade and financial regime that enables all countries to achieve gender equality and sustainable development outcomes. Participants highlighted the need for gender perspectives to be

integrated in future commitments around global partnership, technology transfer and capacity building.

15. Participants warned about the current and future challenges posed by climate change, particularly for the most marginalized women and girls. In this respect, several participants emphasized the importance for the new climate agreement to effectively address gender equality. Ensuring the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – in the implementation of the SDGs was also highlighted as a priority.
16. The specific challenges of meeting with MDG targets for women and girls in countries affected by conflict were raised by participants. In this respect, participants proposed that the implementation of the future Sustainable Development Goals be aligned with key global commitments on women, peace and security, such as the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.