



High-level interactive dialogue

Accelerating implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and achieving concrete results by 2020

Tuesday, 13 March 2018, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., United Nations Headquarters

Overview

The objective of the interactive dialogue is to focus on steps and measures to accelerate implementation of commitments to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. A focus on actions to achieve concrete results by 2020 is timely as the Commission will consider, and make a recommendation on how best to utilize the year 2020 to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The mandate, role and responsibilities of the Commission of the Status of Women in policy-making, and in the follow-up to, monitoring and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of subsequent outcomes is of pivotal importance for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. This is further reinforced by the Commission's contribution to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Commission also plays a catalytic role for gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, including in support of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in cooperating with other intergovernmental processes and functional commissions¹. In this regard, the Economic and Social Council² has encouraged the Commission to continue to hold interactive dialogues with functional commissions.

In the Political Declaration adopted at the Commission's fifty-ninth session (2015), Ministers and Government representatives committed to using all opportunities and processes to accelerate and achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, striving for the full realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women by 2030.

Format and participation

The interactive dialogue will bring together a broad range of stakeholders that will include Government representatives, parliamentarians, representatives of human rights treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, the UN system, civil society, women's and youth organizations, functional commissions, the private sector, and the media.

A moderator will direct the dialogue to ensure its interactive nature using a set of guiding questions (*see below*). Ministers will participate in the dialogue on a voluntary basis. No speakers' list will

¹ E/RES/2015/6, Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

² E/RES/2016/2, Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

be kept. However, Ministers wishing to participate in the dialogue will be invited to communicate this intention in advance. Participants are expected to identify concrete actions they will take to accelerate momentum and achieve concrete results by 2020 in the implementation of the Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Leading questions

Participating stakeholders in the interactive dialogue are invited to address the following questions:

- What key actions and investments will [governments, other stakeholders] undertake to achieve concrete results by the year 2020 for women and girls? How will progress towards those results be measured?
- How will [governments, other stakeholders] strengthen collaboration and partnerships to overcome specific persistent challenges and accelerate realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls?
- How have [governments, other stakeholders] demonstrated leadership in prioritizing the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and what examples of good practice in leadership have made a measurable difference?

Outcome

The outcome of the discussion 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. The summary will highlight concrete actions that participants will take to accelerate implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and achieve concrete results by 2020.