

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

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2013/18, in which the Council 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 and confirmed in its resolution 2009/15, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission; (Source: **ECOSOC resolution 2013/18, para 1**)

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 outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, ^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} (Source: **ECOSOC res. 2006/9, pp**)

Recognizing that the organization of work of the Commission should contribute to advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration¹ and Platform for Action^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, (Source: **ECOSOC res. 2006/9, pp**)

Recognizing also that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women² are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, (Source: **ECOSOC res. 2006/9, pp**)

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and underlining the catalytic role of the Commission in promoting gender mainstreaming, (Source: **ECOSOC res. 2006/9, pp**)

Recognizing 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, (Source: **ECOSOC res. 2006/9, pp**)

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, which also stipulates 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, (Source: **ECOSOC res. 2014/3, pp3**, Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development)

Noting the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and the relevance of the Commission’s work in this respect, (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2014/3, pp 5**)

A. Norm-setting role of the Commission on the Status of Women

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 outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and its norm-setting role on gender equality and empowerment of women and decides that the Commission will also contribute to the follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs, to be adopted at the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

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, annex I.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

2. Decides that the Commission will report on gender equality aspects related to the agreed main theme of the Economic and Social Council in order to contribute to its work; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2014/3, para 2**)
3. Decides that the Commission's annual session will include a Ministerial segment, of three days' duration, to reaffirm political commitment for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women; and that the segment will include inter-active Ministerial round tables to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as a general discussion; (Source: **based on SG report E/CN.6/2014/14, para 51 recommendation**)
4. *Decides* that the Commission will continue to consider one priority theme at each session, based on the Beijing Platform for Action^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} and the linkages to the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 1**)
5. *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 two interactive expert panels 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 should include experts from Governments, civil society, the United Nations system and other stakeholder groups that work on the theme under consideration; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 4, SG report E/CN.6/2014/14, para 32 recommendation**)
6. *Also decides* that there will be one outcome to the annual discussions on the priority theme, in the form of short and succinct agreed conclusions, negotiated by all States, which shall make action-oriented recommendations for steps and measures to close remaining gaps and challenges and accelerate implementation, to be taken by Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders; these agreed conclusions shall be widely disseminated and follow-up action encouraged by all stakeholders; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 5**)
7. *Also decides* that the Commission will continue to discuss emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that require urgent consideration, through an interactive format; (Source: **ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 8**)
8. *Requests* the Bureau of the Commission, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States, through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration by the Commission, 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 particular attention to relevant issues on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the annual main theme of the Council, as applicable; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 9**)
9. *Decides* that the outcome of this discussion will be in the form of a summary of the Chair of the Commission and include recommendations for further action that emanated from the discussion; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 10**)
10. *Also 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, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and recommends that statements identify goals attained,

achievements made, and efforts under way to close gaps and challenges in relation to the priority theme and its linkages to the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 2**)

B. The Commission's evaluation role to monitor implementation of the normative framework

11. *Further decides* that each year the Commission will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme from a previous session and its linkages to the post-2015 development agenda. The evaluation will focus on progress through:

- (a) national voluntary presentations with the participation of stakeholders, including representatives of civil society and the United Nations system, as applicable,
- (b) an interactive dialogue to address data gaps and encourage the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data in regard to the theme, at national and global level;
- (c) an informal joint discussion of the Commission and the Executive Board of UN-Women in order to further enhance follow-up and operational support for implementation of agreed conclusions;

(Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 6; SG report E/CN.6/2014/14, para 43 recommendation**)

12. *Decides* that the outcome of this evaluation will be in the form of a summary of the Chair of the Commission, with recommendations for further action that emanated from the evaluation; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 7**)

C. The Commission's catalytic role for gender mainstreaming

13. *Calls* on the Commission to further enhance its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming, and to expand its cooperation with other functional commissions, through, as appropriate, the exchange of information on programmes of work; joint informal panel discussions; the exchange of outcomes of sessions; participation, through its Chair, in other intergovernmental processes; (Source: **based on SG report E/CN.6/2014/14, para 16 recommendation**)

14. *Requests* the Commission to exercise its catalytic role for gender mainstreaming in support of the implementation of all the SDGs by contributing to their review and monitoring;

15. *Also requests* the Commission to regularly transmit the outcomes of its work to relevant intergovernmental bodies and processes; (Source: **based on E/CN.6/2014/14, para 16 recommendation**)

D. The Commission's convening role to bring together stakeholders

16. *Invites* all gender-specific United Nations entities, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice, and other relevant United Nations entities to contribute, where appropriate, to the discussion of the Commission; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 12**)

17. *Invites* the regional commissions to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission; (Source: **ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 15**)

18. *Decides*, in view of the traditional importance of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of gender equality, 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; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 13**)

19. *Also decides* to expand opportunities for non-governmental organizations to contribute to the work of the Commission through allocating more time to interventions by non-governmental organizations during the general discussion, according greater priority to their interventions during panel discussions and offering a limited number of regionally diverse representatives access to negotiations; (Source: **based on E/CN.6/2014/14, para 57 recommendation**)
20. *Notes with appreciation* the continuation of the annual parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as the programme of side events held on the occasion of the sessions of the Commission; (Source: **ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 14**)
21. *Encourages* all States to consider having technical experts, planning and budgeting experts, and statisticians, including from ministries with expertise relevant to the themes under consideration, parliamentarians as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors, as appropriate, on their delegations to the Commission; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 16**)

E. Preparations, programme of work, documentation and other matters

22. *Encourages* the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to play a pro-active role in the preparations for the session, including through regular briefings and consultations with all States;
23. *Encourages* Governments and all other stakeholders to undertake comprehensive preparations for each session of the Commission, at national, regional and global level, as applicable, so as to strengthen the basis for follow-up to outcomes and implementation;
24. *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 the work programme of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs, so as to fully contribute to the work of the ECOSOC system and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and accelerated realization of gender equality; (Source: **based on E/CN.6/2014/14, para 22 recommendation**)
25. *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, with regard to the priority theme; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 17**)
26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress made in the implementation of the priority theme at national level, including in regard to mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 18**)
27. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in the annual report to the 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; (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2006/9, para 19**)
28. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to prepare informal issues papers in support of inter-active dialogues;
29. *Also decides* that, at its sixtieth session, when the Commission will decide on its future multi-year programme of work, it should also review its working methods towards further aligning those to the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs; as well decide on ways for bringing together all stakeholders in 2020 to conduct a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and consider new initiatives for realizing gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls. (Source: **based on ECOSOC res. 2013/18, para 7**)