Interactive expert panel on the review theme

<u>**Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development:**
the data challenge and opportunity</u>

Monday, 18 March 2019, 10.00am – 1.00pm, United Nations Headquarters

Overview

At its sixty-third session, the Commission on the Status of Women will evaluate progress in the implementation of its <u>Agreed Conclusions</u> of its sixtieth session (2016, E/2016/27), on "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development," as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue.

In addition to presentations of Member States, on a voluntary basis, of lessons learned, challenges and best practices on 13 and 14 March 2019, an expert panel will discuss 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. The agreed conclusions contained specific actions towards strengthening gender-responsive data collection, follow-up and review processes.

Reliable data is critical for monitoring progress for women and girls across many goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Robust gender statistics are needed to inform evidence-based and gender-responsive policy design to support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation and ensure accountability.

However, significant gaps in gender statistics and the lack of trend data make it difficult to monitor progress for women and girls. Data and statistics on marginalized groups—such as women and girls with disabilities, migrant, refugee and displaced women and girls and those living in rural areas — remain largely invisible in official statistics. To this end, innovative approaches in the collection, analysis and use of gender statistics as well as collaboration between stakeholders are crucial to realizing the commitment to leave no one behind from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Actions aimed to ensure a gender-responsive approach in national follow-up and review of the SDGs require enhanced standards and methodologies for collection, analysis and dissemination of

gender statistics and technical capacity, backed by financial resources. Investing in national statistical capacity is central to improving the coverage, quality, and timeliness of data for monitoring gender equality and the SDGs. But beyond this, making sure that data represent the lived reality of all women and girls by addressing deep-seated biases in concepts, definitions, classifications, and methodologies, is essential to making women and girls visible.

The interactive expert panel provides an opportunity to discuss progress, gaps and challenges in the collection, reporting, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics, including data disaggregated by sex and other relevant characteristics such as income, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. It will provide an overview of available data and highlight priorities for closing data gaps that limit the extent to which gender inequality and its intersection with other forms of discrimination can currently be assessed. Finally, the panel will provide an overview of good practices and lessons learned for meeting the gender data requirements to monitor the SDGs for women and girls.

Format and participation

The interactive expert panel will start with short presentations by up to five experts from national gender equality mechanisms, academia, civil society, international organizations and national statistical offices, selected in a manner that reflects regional balance, diversity of voices and expertise, followed by comments and questions from Member States and other stakeholders.

Suggested questions to guide the discussion:

(1) What is needed to ensure that countries and the global community are able to monitor progress on gender equality in a comprehensive and cross-cutting way across the 2030 Agenda? What are key challenges and how can those be addressed?

(2) What are good practices in developing standards and methodologies and applying them at the national, regional and global levels to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics? How can national statistical systems be supported to better mainstream gender perspectives in all their statistical activities, develop gender-sensitive indicator frameworks and improve data disaggregation to capture those furthest behind?

(3) What roles can United Nations entities, academia and civil society organizations play in order to strengthen the links between data production and their use to inform evidence-based policies to achieve the SDGs for women and girls everywhere? How can non-traditional data sources, such as citizen generated data, be used to fill data gaps and improve understanding on key aspects of girls' and women's lives?

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.