High-level interactive dialogue

National mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls: looking to the future

Thursday, 12 March 2020, 9.30 a.m.-1.00 pm

United Nations Headquarters

Concept note

Overview

The Beijing Platform for Action highlights the importance of national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Over the years, institutional arrangements have evolved, and increasingly include a range of mechanisms and networks of collaboration. At the same time, many national gender equality mechanisms continue to face challenges in regards to adequate human, technical and financial resources, as well as sufficient authority, to discharge their mandates effectively.

Collaboration between institutional mechanisms and other stakeholders, including non-governmental actors, have been crucial to advance the implementation of gender equality commitments, articulate women’s interests in public policies and enhance institutional accountability. Cooperative relationships with branches of government in particular parliaments, and collaboration with academic institutions and non-governmental organizations, especially women’s organizations, have contributed to accelerated implementation of gender equality policies and strategies. Such collaboration has helped to advance progress in different policy fields, including in relation to ending violence against women, the care economy, women’s political participation, collection of disaggregated data and gender statistics, and many others.

The objective of the high-level interactive dialogue on National mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls: looking to the future is to share recent experiences of collaboration between national mechanisms for gender equality with other actors, such as other government actors/line ministries, advisory bodies, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and others, and to discuss the impact of such collaboration and coordination for the accelerated implementation of gender equality policies and strategies.
**Format and participation**

The high-level interactive dialogue will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Mher Margaryan (Armenia), Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. A moderator will support the Chair.

The event will start with the presentation of several case studies by heads of national gender equality mechanisms together with key collaborating stakeholders (for example, from the legislature, from civil society), who will jointly present the process and outcomes of their collaboration. They will emphasize the reasons why such a collaborative approach yielded the presented results.

Following their presentations, the moderator will synthesize key lessons learned. The floor will then be open for comments from Ministers/heads of national mechanisms for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and other government officials for an exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned from collaboration. The floor may also be given to some representatives of NGOs. Panelists will be offered an opportunity to respond to questions posed and make short concluding comments, time permitting. The moderator will wrap up and the Chair will close the meeting.

**Leading questions**

Participants in the high-level interactive dialogue are invited to address the following questions:

- Who are key partners for collaboration of national mechanisms for gender equality in the successful discharge of their mandates? How is such collaboration evolving in the light of new challenges and opportunities?
- What are examples of good practice in collaboration to advance policy priorities and objectives in specific areas? What lessons can be learned from such targeted collaboration that can be scaled up and replicated in other areas?
- How can collaboration of national mechanisms for gender equality with stakeholders contribute to strengthening accountability for gender equality results?
- What steps and measures can national mechanisms for gender equality take to enhance the capacities of relevant actors for gender mainstreaming in sectoral areas?

**Outcome**

The outcome of the high-level interactive dialogue will be in the form of a Chair’s summary, prepared in consultation with the regional groups through the members of the Bureau.