Interactive dialogue

UN@75: CSW’s contribution to “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism”

Tuesday, 17 March 2020, 10.00 – 1.00 pm, United Nations Headquarters

Concept note

Overview

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, and this commemoration takes place under the theme of “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism”. The Charter of the UN, in its preamble, reaffirmed faith “… in the equal rights of men and women….”. Since its establishment in 1946 and its first session in 1947, the Commission on the Status of Women has played a leading role in shaping the global normative framework for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

This has included the Commission’s contribution to the drafting of international legal instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, as well as its work in relation to the United Nations conferences on women. Among other responsibilities, the Commission now monitors, reviews and appraises progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 and of the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly of 2000. It has a catalytic role in promoting gender mainstreaming. The Commission also contributes to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The objective of the interactive dialogue is to present and give visibility to the work and role of the Commission and thus contribute to the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

Format and participation

The interactive dialogue will be chaired by Ms. Ahlem Sara Charikhi (Algeria), Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. A moderator will support the Chair.

The dialogue will bring together a broad range of stakeholders that have contributed to, or benefitted from the work of the Commission, including government officials, representatives of non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system, representatives of functional commissions, national human rights institutions, representatives of human rights treaty bodies, and special procedures mandate holders.

The meeting will begin with a moderated dialogue with panelists on the work of the Commission. The floor will then be open for contributions and comments from Member States, as well as other
stakeholders, in an interactive dialogue. The moderator will wrap up and the Chair will close the meeting.

**Leading questions**

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

1. What are some of the key achievements of the Commission and what are some of the key challenges the Commission faces going forward? How can those challenges be addressed?
2. How can the Commission most effectively contribute to the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development from a gender perspective? What are some of the issues and challenges that the Commission will need to address in this regard?
3. How has the work of the Commission galvanized action for women and girls at national level? What lessons can be drawn from such advances to enhance the impact of the work of the Commission going forward?
4. How have different stakeholders contributed to, and benefitted from the work of the Commission? What are expectations for improvements?
5. What are some of the key challenges that need to be addressed to strengthen multilateralism in the service of gender equality and the empowerment of women?

**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.