

CSW60

Commission on the
Status of Women

14-24 March 2016

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Review theme: The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (CSW Agreed Conclusions 2013)

Addressing data gaps and methodology issues

Inter-active expert panel

17 March 2016, 3.00 to 6.00 pm, CR 4

Overview

At its sixtieth session, the Commission on the Status of Women will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its fifty-seventh session (2013), on “The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”, as its review theme. In addition to the voluntary presentations of Member States, scheduled to take place on 15 March 2016, the evaluation will include an interactive discussion on ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation through addressing data gaps and challenges, and the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data in regard to the theme, at national, regional and global level (17 March, 3.00 - 6.00 pm).

The present note sets out the format for the interactive expert panel on data gaps and methodologies in relation to the agreed conclusions of 2013.

The agreed conclusions of 2013 included actions aimed at improving the evidence-base, such as measures on research and analysis on the prevalence, causes, consequences and costs of violence against women and girls; on the collection, analysis and dissemination of data and statistics; the collection, harmonization and use of administrative data; the development of effective national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and the sharing of best practices.

The agreed conclusions provided a critical impetus for the inclusion of a target to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in private and public spaces in SDG5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (target 5.2), and related targets are also included under other goals in the agenda. Monitoring this target will require prevalence data which need to be collected in line with existing international standards so they are reliable and comparable, as called for in the agreed conclusions.

In response to the agreed conclusions, Member States implemented a range of measures, such as research and studies on different aspects of gender equality and violence against women, and improved the collection and recording of administrative data by relevant services (E/CN.6/2016/4). There is considerable progress in data collection through surveys, with data on the prevalence of violence against women currently available for 102 countries. A recent analysis highlights that more than 40 countries conducted at least two surveys in the period 1995 – 2014, which may allow for the analysis of changes

over time if the same methodology is used. There is still, however, a high proportion of countries that have limited or no data available, which presents a challenge to monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Collecting prevalence data on violence against women through surveys is costly and time consuming. Methodological and ethical considerations need to be taken into account, and technical capacities, knowledge and experience in National Statistical Offices is required.

The expert panel will reflect on progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions in relation to data collection and analysis, methodologies and the improvement of the evidence base. It will also consider the challenges and opportunities that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents for enhancing the evidence base on all forms of violence against women and girls.

Format, topics and proposed questions

The inter-active expert panel will start with short presentations (8-10 minutes) by three experts, followed by comments and questions from Member States and other stakeholders addressed to the panelists, as well as examples of good practices and lessons learned.

Topic 1: Measuring Violence against Women: Data availability, gaps and indicators for global monitoring in the 2030 Development Agenda.

Topic 2: Data sources for producing statistics on violence against women: Challenges and lessons learned.

Topic 3: The role of National Statistical Offices in collecting prevalence data and producing statistics on violence against women.

Suggested questions to guide the discussion:

- (1) What are examples of national experiences on violence against women data collection? What are the main challenges and lessons learned, and how are available data used to inform laws, policies and programmes?
- (2) What good practices are available to collect data on violence against all women? How can we improve evidence on violence against women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination and are most vulnerable to experience violence?
- (3) What steps will countries take to ensure that data are regularly collected on violence against all women and girls in private and public spaces, for relevant SDG targets?