



Interactive dialogue on the priority theme

Eliminating violence against women in public life

Wednesday, 17 March 2021, 9.00 -11.00 a.m., Informal virtual meeting

Overview

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action recognizes that all people have the equal right to participate in their country's government through public office and informal leadership, calls for power-sharing between men and women, and highlights women's equal access to and full participation in decision-making as critical for achieving gender equality. The Commission on the Status of Women has reaffirmed the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and emphasized the mutually reinforcing relationship between the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action and the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Platform for Action recognizes violence against women as a critical area of concern and a key obstacle to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Available studies and data indicate that violence against women in political and public life is globally pervasive and may be increasing as more women gain access to power. Awareness of, and action to, eliminate violence against women in public life is increasing, but more urgent prevention and response measures are required at the national level.

This interactive dialogue will engage panelists in a discussion on how violence against women affects women's participation in public life and decision-making, what interventions are needed to eliminate it, to better track and document such violence, and to put in place effective prevention measures.

Format and participation

The interactive dialogue will be chaired by [TBC by the Bureau], Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women. A moderator will support the Chair. The event will start with a moderated dialogue in which panelists share examples of steps taken in different national contexts to prevent, eliminate and respond to violence against women in public life, and reflect on how these efforts could be scaled up. 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:

- What are examples of policies, programmes and budget allocations that Member States have implemented to address violence against women in public life? What lessons can be learned from these and replicated?
- What are examples of good practices of coordination among Government and other stakeholders to pursue legal reforms and other specific measures to address violence against women in public life, both online and offline? What lessons can be learned from these and replicated?
- What are examples of awareness-raising efforts to combat violence against women in public life at national and international levels and their impact? What lessons can be learned to identify and address current and future priorities for ending such violence?

Outcome

The outcome of the 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.