



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

# THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

## Fifty-seventh session

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New York  
4-15 March 2013

Priority Theme:  
**Elimination and prevention of all forms of  
violence against women and girls**



*Information Bulletin*

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## INTRODUCTION

Every year, representatives of Member States, UN entities, and NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and other stakeholders gather for the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Commission's annual session, which is usually held for ten days in February/March, provides an opportunity to review progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment, identify challenges, set global standards and norms and formulate policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

The fifty-seventh session of the Commission will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 4 to 15 March 2013, and have as its priority theme, **Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls**. The two-week session will include plenary sessions, a high-level round table, interactive dialogues and panels, and related parallel events. In addition, the session will deliberate on a review theme, **The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS**. It will also address an emerging issues theme, **Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework**.

## MANDATE

The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and a global policy-making body, dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946 to prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to ECOSOC on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights.

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## RELATIONSHIP WITH UN WOMEN

The Commission is part of the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). In establishing UN Women through its resolution 64/289 on 2 July 2010, the General Assembly established a dual governance structure for the entity, noting that “the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and **the Commission on the Status of Women** shall constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions and shall provide normative policy guidance to the Entity”.

The General Assembly also established the Economic and Social Council and the **Executive Board** of UN Women as the “multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the operational activities of UN Women and shall provide operational policy guidance to the Entity”. UN Women provides substantive support to the Commission in all aspects of its work, including to its Bureau. UN Women also actively facilitates the participation of civil society representatives in the Commission’s sessions.

## WORKING METHODS AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

The working methods of the Commission and the issues it focuses on in its annual sessions are determined by resolutions previously adopted by ECOSOC, the parent body of the Commission. Themes to be considered by the Commission were outlined in ECOSOC resolution 2009/15 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission. The resolution laid out a multi-year programme of work specifying the priority themes for the period 2010-2014. The Council also decided in that resolution that at its fifty-seventh session the Commission would, for its review theme, evaluate the implementation of the agreed conclusions from the fifty-third session on “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.” In contrast to these pre-identified themes, the emerging issues theme is selected annually by the Commission.

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## OUTCOMES

### THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS

The principal outcome of the Commission on the Status of Women is the **agreed conclusions** on the priority themes. ECOSOC resolution 2006/9 decided, inter alia, that “there will be one outcome to the annual discussions on the priority theme, in the form of agreed conclusions, negotiated by all States, which shall both identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of previous commitments and make action-oriented recommendations for all States, relevant intergovernmental bodies, mechanisms and entities of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, in order to accelerate their implementation, and which would be widely disseminated to the United Nations system, where relevant, and made widely available by all States to the public in their own countries, as appropriate”.

Agreed conclusions contain an assessment of progress, as well as of gaps and challenges. They are informed by the analysis and recommendations of the Secretary-General’s reports on the priority theme and outline a set of recommendations to be implemented by Governments, inter-governmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders. Consensus on the agreed conclusions of the fifty-seventh session will underscore the international commitment to ending the global scourge of violence against women and girls.

### OTHER OUTCOMES

In addition to the agreed conclusions, the Commission adopts a number of resolutions on a range of issues. A number of side events that are organized around the Commission also draw attention to critical aspects of the work on gender equality.

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## CONSENSUS-BUILDING

Apart from direct support to the Commission and its Bureau, UN Women actively works to create avenues for building consensus. It is leveraging opportunities, experiences and lessons learned from its operational and normative work towards that end. As part of the effort to forge consensus towards a successful outcome of the fifty- seventh session, UN Women has organized a number of events including a High Level Stakeholder Forum which was held in New York on 13-14 December 2012 and a High Level Ministerial Meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14 to 16 January 2013.

## DOCUMENTATION

A number of official documents which were prepared by UN Women will be considered by the Commission, including two reports of the Secretary-General on the priority theme (E/CN.6/2013/3 and E/CN.6/2013/4). One report focuses on the prevention of violence against women and the other on multi-sectoral responses. In addition a large number of statements submitted by NGOs will be issued as part of the documentation for the session.

## DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY UN WOMEN

- E/CN.6/2013/1: Provisional agenda and annotations
- E/CN.6/2013/1/Add.1: Proposed organization of work
- E/CN.6/2013/2: Report of the Executive Director of UN Women
- E/CN.6/2013/3: Report of the Secretary-General on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls (multi-sectoral responses to violence against women and girls)
- E/CN.6/2013/4: Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme (prevention)

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- E/CN.6/2013/5: Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the high-level round table on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls
  - E/CN.6/2013/6: Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of, and assistance to, Palestinian women
  - E/CN.6/2013/7: Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for priority themes for future sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women
  - E/CN.6/2013/8: Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women
  - E/CN.6/2013/9: Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women
  - E/CN.6/2013/10: Note by the Secretary-General as input to the 2013 ECOSOC high-level segment
  - E/CN.6/2013/SW/Communications List No. 47/R: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (Communications List No. 47/R)
  - E/CN.6/2013/Communications List No. 47/R/Add.1: Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (Communications List No. 47/R) (Addendum)

## MEMBERS AND BUREAU OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission consists of 45 members who are elected for a period of four years by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution as follows:

- Thirteen (13) from Africa
- Eleven (11) from Asia
- Nine (9) from Latin America and Caribbean
- Eight (8) from Western Europe and other States
- Four (4) from Eastern Europe

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The Bureau of the Commission plays a crucial role in facilitating the preparation for, and in ensuring the successful outcome of the annual sessions of the Commission. Bureau members serve for two years.

## **BUREAU** (fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions)

### **Chair:**

- H.E. Ms. Marjon V. Kamara (Liberia) of the African States Group

### **Vice Chairs:**

- Ms. Ana Marie Hernando (Philippines) of the Asia-Pacific States Group, Vice-Chair
- Ms. Irina Velichko (Belarus) of the Eastern European States Group, Vice-Chair
- H.E. Mr. Carlos Garcia Gonzalez (El Salvador) of the Latin American and Caribbean States Group, Vice-Chair
- Mr. Filippo Cinti (Italy), Western European and other States Group, Vice-Chair

Further information on the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women is available on the website of UN Women at

<http://www.unwomen.org/csw/csw57>

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### **Contact:**

Ms. Rocio Torres

Email: [rocio.torres@unwomen.org](mailto:rocio.torres@unwomen.org)

Phone: 646-781-4426

UN Women Inter-Governmental Support Division

220 East 42nd Street, 18th Floor

New York, NY 10017

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## MEMBERSHIP

Member	Term expiration	Member	Term expiration
Argentina	2014	Israel	2013
Bangladesh	2014	Italy	2013
Belarus	2013	Jamaica	2015
Belgium	2015	Japan	2013
Brazil	2016	Liberia	2015
Central African Republic	2014	Libya	2014
China	2016	Malawi	2016
Colombia	2013	Malaysia	2014
Comoros	2014	Mauritania	2013
Cuba	2016	Mongolia	2014
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2015	Netherlands	2015
		Nicaragua	2013
Dominican Republic	2016	Niger	2016
El Salvador	2014	Philippines	2014
Estonia	2015	Republic of Korea	2014
Finland	2016	Russian Federation	2016
Gambia	2014	Rwanda	2013
Georgia	2015	Spain	2015
Germany	2013	Swaziland	2014
Guinea	2013	Thailand	2015
Indonesia	2016	United States of America	2016
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2015	Uruguay	2014
Iraq	2013	Zimbabwe	2015

### CSW57

**REVIEW THEME:** The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

**EMERGING ISSUES THEME:** Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework