



Review theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (Agreed Conclusions of the fifty-eighth session)
Wednesday 15, and Thursday 16 March 2017, United Nations Headquarters

Overview

In accordance with its working methods, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) each year will evaluate progress in the implementation of the Agreed Conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue that includes:

- (a) Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, presenting their lessons learned, challenges and best practices that identify means for accelerated implementation through national and regional experiences;
- (b) Ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data in regard to the theme, at the national, regional and global level.

The outcome of the discussion on the review theme will be in the form of a summary by the Chair of the Commission, prepared in consultation with the regional groups, through the members of the Bureau.

The review will be supported by a report of the Secretary-General on progress made on the review theme at the national level (E/CN.6/2017/4).

Review theme at CSW61

At the sixty-first session, the Commission's review theme will be "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", contained in its [Agreed Conclusions](#) of its fifty-eighth session of 2014.

The review of these Agreed Conclusions comes at a critical juncture when the national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is at an early or even preparatory stage. It is therefore timely to consider how the guidance from CSW58 and the lessons from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are being reflected in national processes and policies guiding the transition to the SDGs. For accelerating the implementation of the MDGs and laying the ground for the SDGs, the Agreed Conclusions emphasized:

1. the interlinkages between the full realization of women's and girls' human rights and sustainable development;
2. the need for an enabling environment including a macro-economic framework that promotes gender equality and systematic gender mainstreaming across all policies;
3. maximizing investments in gender equality, including through increased domestic resource mobilization and ODA, and institutionalizing gender-responsive budgeting;

4. strengthening the evidence base by improving data collection, reporting on gender indicators and development of new methodologies; and
5. ensuring women's participation at all levels of decision-making and strengthening mechanisms for accountability.

Member States making voluntary presentations should specifically address some or all of these five key areas of focus of the Agreed Conclusions since adoption by the Commission in March 2014. Member States should highlight actions taken in response to the Agreed Conclusions from CSW58 and on the lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs to inform their efforts to implement the SDGs. They are encouraged to provide concrete examples of measures taken, their impacts or results, highlight successful collaborations with stakeholders, and identify good practice examples, as well as key gaps and challenges.

Proposed format for the review

In order to enable an interactive dialogue, 12 Member States will make voluntary presentations. Each voluntary presentation will be no more than 15 minutes, followed by comments and questions by 'partner countries', and brief responses by the presenting Member State. It is proposed that each presenting country identifies in advance up to 3 'partner countries' to comment on its presentation in a constructive manner, including posing questions. Such 'partner countries' could be invited based on ongoing cooperation with the presenting country, on similar experiences, or because they would seek to benefit from the lessons of the presenting country.

Timetable

The following Member States have been designated to make voluntary presentations: Indonesia, Mongolia, Iran (Asia-Pacific States Group); Liberia, Morocco, Tanzania (African States Group); Bulgaria, Slovakia (Eastern European States Group); Mexico, Dominican Republic (Latin American and Caribbean States Group); Spain, Malta (Western European and other States Group).

Each presenting country should make available, at least one week prior to its presentation, a short synopsis so as to facilitate the contribution of 'partner countries', and to share information with all participants in the Commission.

CSW61 will allocate two meetings for the review. Approximately 30 minutes will be allocated to each presentation (voluntary presentation, comments from 'partner countries', and responses from presenting country).

Format of voluntary presentations

Voluntary presentations should:

- At national level, be prepared through a multi-stakeholder consultation
- Focus on actions taken since March 2014 in response to the CSW58 Agreed Conclusions
- Focus on lessons learned, challenges and best practices, covering one or several areas of the Agreed Conclusions
- Be presented, if possible, by a team of up to 3 speakers, led by a senior Government official, and including a civil society representative
- Power point or short videos are encouraged (as part of the 15 minutes).