



Enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women

Workshop/information sharing session

Background and purpose

The Commission on the Status of Women is the unchallenged leader on issues of gender equality and the empowerment of women at the global level. It is a deliberative, consensus-building and policymaking body that has one of the highest profiles of any of the intergovernmental bodies that meet at the United Nations. Recent sessions have added to the visibility of the Commission's work, and to the results achieved. They have demonstrated the effectiveness and strategic value of the Commission and its role in shaping the agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment. The Commission thus has a solid basis to further enhance the impact of its work.

Working methods play a significant role in enabling intergovernmental bodies to implement their mandates and achieve their objectives in an efficient and effective manner. They can contribute to enhancing many components of a session, including preparations, high-level engagement, inter-action with stakeholders, and scope and impact of outcomes and monitoring their implementation.

The effectiveness of their working methods is regularly the subject of discussion and action by intergovernmental bodies. The Commission on the Status of Women last updated its working methods in 2006, and confirmed those in 2009 (E/RES/2006/9 and E/RES/2009/15). The current working methods of the Commission on the Status of Women, and ways for enhancing the impact of its work were recently the subject of a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2014/14).

The Economic and Social Council leads the work of the United Nations system through its role as the central mechanism for coordination of the activities of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervision of subsidiary bodies in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and its effectiveness has been strengthened recently, including through new working methods (see A/RES/68/1). Other functional commissions, such as the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2014/3, and decision 45/102 on working methods of the Statistical Commission), have also given consideration to their working methods, including in response to GA resolution 68/1. The Commission for Social Development reviewed its working methods in 2013 and 2014 (E/RES/2014/3, see also the report of the Secretary-General in E/CN.5/2013/5).

As the international community is working towards the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, working methods can be a way for adapting to the new framework and ensuring that follow up and implementation are 'fit for purpose'.

Objective

In order to support the Commission's consideration of its working methods, UN-Women is organizing a workshop to share information and discuss experiences and good practices in the use of working methods, from the ECOSOC system and beyond. It will also provide opportunity for stakeholders to discuss contributions to the work of the Commission.

Participants

The event will take place in Conference room 2 of the UN Conference Building. Representatives of Member States and non-governmental organizations are invited to attend.

Draft programme

Friday, 23 January 2015	
<p>11.45 – 12.00 noon Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Lakshmi Puri, ASG, UN-Women <p>12.00 – 1.15 pm Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Navid Hanif, Director, OESC • Ms. Wenyan Yang, Chief of Branch, DSPD <p>Facilitator: Christine Brautigam, UN-Women IGSD</p>	<p>Opening and presentation of expectations</p> <p>Political leadership and expert engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial segments • Expert panels and interactive dialogues <p>Review and monitoring of implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National voluntary presentations, peer reviews • Review themes <p>This segment will provide an opportunity to review and discuss the format, and impact of the participation of high-level representatives and expert representatives in the ECOSOC and select functional commissions. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss how intergovernmental bodies have discharged the review and monitoring function in relation to their mandates, experiences gained and impact of such approaches.</p>
<p>3.00 – 4.30 pm Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO-CSW • Women's Major Group • Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues • NGLS <p>Facilitator: Lopa Banerjee, UN-Women CSS</p>	<p>Engagement of civil society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal meetings • Informal meetings • Hearings and consultations <p>This segment will provide an opportunity for civil society to share their views and to discuss ways in which NGOs and major groups are contributing to intergovernmental processes.</p>
<p>4.30 – 5.00 pm</p>	<p>Wrap up</p>