

4 February 2014
Draft presented by CSW Bureau

**Commission on the Status of Women 58th session
10 – 21 March 2014**

**Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development
Goals for women and girls**

Draft agreed conclusions

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women. **(CSW 57 AC, para 1)**
2. The Commission reaffirms that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls and promotion of substantive gender equality. **(based on CSW57 AC, para 3)**
3. The Commission reaffirms that the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. **(based on A/RES/65/1, A/RES/60/1)**
4. The Commission also reaffirms the international commitments made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in the Programme of Action at the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation. **(CSW 57 AC, para 2)**
5. The Commission also reaffirms the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, which recognized the vital role of women in achieving sustainable development and resolved to unlock the potential of women as drivers of sustainable development. **(based on A/RES/66/288, paras 45 and 238)**
6. The Commission reaffirms that gender equality, the empowerment of women, women’s full enjoyment of human rights and the eradication of poverty are essential to economic and social development, including the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Commission also reaffirms the vital role of women as agents of development **(Annual Ministerial Declaration, ECOSOC, 2010, para 2)**

4 February 2014

Draft presented by CSW Bureau

7. The Commission welcomes the commitments and concerted policy action at national, regional and global levels to achieve the MDGs for women and girls. The Commission recognizes the innovative efforts by some countries in the implementation of the MDGs for women and girls by adapting targets to local contexts and reporting on a broader range of gender equality and women's rights issues. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4, para 6)**
8. The Commission welcomes progress made for women and girls in several areas of the MDGs, and recognizes the importance of MDG 3 in signaling gender equality and women's empowerment as a global priority. It especially welcomes the progress made in reaching gender parity in primary education enrolment and progress made on increasing the proportion of women in national parliaments. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 paras 19 and 21)**
9. The Commission is deeply concerned that overall progress for women and girls across all the MDGs remains slow and uneven, both within and between countries. It is especially concerned about the lack of progress for the most marginalized groups of women and girls and those who experience multiple forms of discrimination based on gender, status, age, income, geographical location, language, ethnicity, disability, and race, or because they are rural or indigenous women and girls, or women and girls living with HIV and AIDS. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 55)** It is also concerned that the MDGs are least likely to be achieved for women and girls in countries affected by conflict. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 57)**
10. The Commission notes that in regard to MDG 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) significant gender gaps in employment rates persist and women are more likely than men to be in vulnerable forms of employment and have less access to social protection. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 paras 7 and 12)**
11. The Commission notes that in regard to MDG 2 (Achieve universal primary education) gender parity in primary education enrolment has been achieved in all regions. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 paras 16)**
12. The Commission notes that in regard to MDG 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women) progress has been slow with persistent gender gaps in secondary and tertiary education enrolment, women remaining significantly under-represented in non-agricultural wage employment and a low proportion of women in national parliaments. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 paras 19, 20 and 21)**
13. The Commission notes that in regard to MDG 4 (Reduce child mortality) significant progress has been made to reduce child mortality globally, and also notes that some regions have higher female under-five mortality rates due to discriminatory practices. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 26)**
14. The Commission notes that in regard to MDG 5 (Improve maternal health) progress has been especially slow and there continues to be unacceptably high numbers of

4 February 2014

Draft presented by CSW Bureau

maternal deaths and a significant number of women with an unmet need for family planning. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 27)**

15. The Commission notes that in regard to MDG 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases) progress has been limited, with the number of women living with HIV increasing globally since 2001. It also notes the particular vulnerability of young women to HIV, compared to young men. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 paras 34, 35 and 36)**
16. The Commission notes that in regard to MDG 7 (Environmental sustainability) while progress has been made in access to safe drinking water, progress on access to basic sanitation has been particularly slow, with the target likely to be missed, with serious implications for women and girls. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 paras 40 and 41)**
17. The Commission notes that in regard to MDG 8 (A global partnership for development) the share of official development assistance in support of gender equality has remained inadequate. It also notes that a gender gap in access to information and communication technologies persists. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 paras 46, 47 and 48)**
18. The Commission is concerned that several indicators to monitor the MDGs do not provide any information about the situation of women and girls, including those on poverty, hunger, environmental sustainability and global partnership for development. **(based on E/CN.6/2014.3 paras 8, 15, 36, 48)**
19. The Commission is concerned that several critical gender equality issues were not covered by the MDGs such as violence against women and girls, women's disproportionate share of unpaid care work, women's equal access to assets and productive resources, the gender wage gap, women's sexual and reproductive health and rights and women's equal participation at all levels of decision-making. The Commission recognizes that unless all dimensions of gender inequality are addressed, gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment cannot be achieved. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 52)**
20. The Commission recognizes that progress on all the MDGs for women and girls has been held back due to the persistence of unequal power relations between women and men and discriminatory laws, social norms, practices and stereotypes. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 53)**
21. The Commission recognizes that the achievement of the MDGs for women and girls has been adversely affected by the impacts of the world financial and economic crises, volatile food and energy prices, food insecurity and climate change. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 57)**
22. The Commission further recognizes that progress on the MDGs for women and girls has been limited due to the lack of systematic gender mainstreaming and integration

of a gender perspective in the design and implementation of the MDGs. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 5)**

23. The Commission also recognizes that insufficient priority given to and significant underinvestment in gender equality and women's empowerment continues to limit progress on the MDGs for women and girls. It stresses that the allocation of resources to achieve gender equality through domestic resource mobilization and official development assistance remains extremely inadequate. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 59)**
24. The Commission also recognizes that gender-responsive monitoring of the MDGs has been limited due to a lack of investment in gender statistics. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 61)**
25. In accelerating the achievement of the MDGs and laying the ground for prioritization of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the post-2015 development agenda, the Commission calls on States to: realize women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights; strengthen the enabling environment for gender equality; maximize investments in gender equality and women's rights; strengthen the evidence-base for gender equality; and ensure women's participation at all levels and strengthen accountability.
26. Therefore, the Commission urges governments, the relevant entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, women's and other civil society organizations, and the private sector, to take the following actions at the national, regional, and global levels:

A. Realizing women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights

- (a) Ratify and fully implement the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, withdraw all reservations to the Convention, and ratify or accede to its Optional Protocol; **(based on CSW 57 AC para 34 (a))**
- (b) Ensure full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; **(E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (i))**
- (c) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls through: the adoption and accelerated and effective implementation of laws and comprehensive policy measures; the removal of discriminatory provisions in legal frameworks; and comprehensive measures to ensure women's access to justice; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 paras 88 (a) (b) and CSW 57 AC paras 34 (v) (cc))**
- (d) Implement concrete and long-term measures to transform discriminatory social norms, stereotypes and harmful practices to promote gender equality and women's empowerment; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (b))**
- (e) Work with men and boys as strategic partners and allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls; **(based on CSW 57 AC para 34 (pp))**

4 February 2014

Draft presented by CSW Bureau

- (f) Implement specific and targeted measures for the most marginalized groups and for women and girls who experience multiple forms of discrimination; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (l))**
- (g) Address the multiple factors contributing to women's poverty by ensuring women's economic and social rights, including rights related to employment and decent work, health, education, social protection over the lifecycle and an adequate standard of living, including the right to food security and adequate nutrition, water and housing; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 9)**
- (h) Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls through multi-sectoral and coordinated approaches to prevent and respond to violence; **(E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (l))**
- (i) Ensure women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, including the provision of high quality and universally accessible reproductive and sexual health services across the lifecycle and comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (n))**
- (j) Ensure women's and girls' right to a quality education, with specific attention to improving completion rates, the quality of education and girls' safety in the school environment; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 23)**
- (k) Ensure women's right to work and rights at work through policies that promote decent work for all, promote equal pay for work of equal value, prohibit sexual harassment and support the reconciliation of paid work with family/care responsibilities for both women and men; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (m))**
- (l) Guarantee women's equal access to and control over assets and productive resources, including land, property and finance; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 74)**
- (m) Provide gender-responsive, universally accessible and high quality services and infrastructure, including health, water and sanitation, transport, energy, housing, financial services, and information and communication technologies; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 paras 57 and 88 (o))**
- (n) Provide universal social protection across the lifecycle that gives women and girls protection against risks and vulnerabilities and promotes their rights; **(E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (p))**
- (o) Recognize, value, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work through policies on social protection and essential services including care services, infrastructure development, and employment; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (q))**

B. Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality

- (p) Ensure that global trade, financial and investment agreements promote gender equality and complement national development efforts to achieve the MDGs for women and girls; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (c))**
- (q) Ensure that macro-economic policies promote gender equality by creating decent work for all, by mobilizing resources to finance social protection, infrastructure and essential services, and by reducing inequalities based on context-specific characteristics; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (d))**

4 February 2014

Draft presented by CSW Bureau

- (r) Ensure that global and national policy responses to financial and economic crises and to volatile food and energy prices promote gender equality by creating decent work for all, redistributing resources and generating revenues to finance essential services, social protection and infrastructure; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (e))**
- (s) Prioritize systematically, and mainstream gender equality perspectives in all social, economic and environmental policies and programmes to implement the MDGs, including national development policies and strategies to reduce poverty, and budgeting and public expenditure allocation processes; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (d))**
- (t) Adopt specific measures to implement the MDGs for women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and ensure women's participation in all aspects of peacebuilding and recovery; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (h))**
- (u) Strengthen international cooperation in technology and innovation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through public-private partnerships; **(based on CSW55 AC, para. 22 (i))**

C. Maximizing investments in gender equality and women's rights

- (v) Increase significantly financial resources across all sectors for the realization of gender equality and women's rights, through domestic resource mobilization and increased official development assistance;
- (w) Institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting across all sectors of public expenditure to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (f) and E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (j))**
- (x) Ensure all national and sectoral gender equality plans and policies are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation; **(E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (i))**
- (y) Monitor the impact of all economic decision-making on gender equality, including public sector expenditures, public-private partnerships and investments, and official development assistance, and take corrective action to prevent discriminatory impacts and promote gender equality; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (g))**
- (z) Increase significantly resources for grassroots, national, regional and global women's organizations to promote and advance women's rights; **(E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (h))**

D. Strengthening the evidence-base for gender equality

- (aa) Improve systematic and coordinated collection, dissemination and analysis of gender statistics at the national level through financial and technical support and capacity-building; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (o))**
- (bb) Collect regularly and disseminate the minimum set of gender indicators and the core set of violence against women indicators adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2013; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (o))**

- (cc) Develop international standards and methodologies to improve data on women's experiences of poverty, unpaid care work, women's participation at all levels of decision-making and women's access to assets and productive resources; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 61)**
- (dd) Develop national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess policies and programmes to achieve the MDGs for women and girls and promote the sharing of best practices and experiences; **(based on CSW 57 AC, paras 34 (ppp) and (qqq))**

E. Ensuring women's participation at all levels and strengthening accountability

- (ee) Ensure women's full and effective participation at all levels of decision-making in public and private institutions, through policies, temporary special measures and by setting concrete goals, targets and benchmarks; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (t))**
 - (ff) Support the participation of women's organizations and other civil society organizations in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies to implement the MDGs and in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda; **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (r))**
 - (gg) Ensure accountability of state and non-state actors for the promotion of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment; **(E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (s))**
 - (hh) Strengthen institutional arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the MDGs and ensuring transparency by making available relevant information and supporting women's full and effective participation. **(based on E/CN.6/2014/4 para 88 (u) and E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (r))**
27. The Commission urges States to build on the lessons from the implementation of the MDGs as the new post-2015 development agenda is being shaped. It urges States to tackle critical remaining challenges through a transformative approach and calls for gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment to be reflected as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework **(based on E/CN.6/2014/3 para 66 (b))**.
28. The Commission also urges all States and all other stakeholders to undertake comprehensive national and regional level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly so that the outcomes of these reviews can effectively feed into its fifty-ninth session, in 2015. The Commission especially encourages all stakeholders to analyze current challenges and identify opportunities for accelerating actions to realize gender equality and the empowerment of women, and to undertake appropriate commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women **(based on E/RES/2013/18 paras 3 and 4, and A/RES/68/140 on follow-up to the FWCW)**.