

CONCEPT NOTE

60th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW), NEW YORK, 14-24 MARCH 2016

PROPOSED SIDE EVENT: ACHIEVING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN THE 2030 AGENDA: THE ROLE OF INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS AND UN AGENCIES

ORGANISERS: Government of Brazil, Government of the United Kingdom; UN-Women and UNFPA.

DATE: Wednesday, 16 March 2016

PLACE: Conference Room 1 (CR-1)

TIME: 1 hour and 30 min (15:00-16:15)

BACKGROUND

Gender equality is a human right. Women are entitled to live with dignity and with freedom from want and from fear. Gender equality is also a precondition for advancing development and reducing poverty. Empowered women contribute to the health and productivity of whole families and communities, and they improve prospects for the next generation. Still, despite solid evidence demonstrating the centrality of women's empowerment to reducing poverty, promoting development and addressing the world's most urgent challenges, gender equality remains an unfulfilled promise.

Over the past decade, Trilateral and South-South Cooperation have grown exponentially and have been progressively gaining support in international fora. These emerging cooperation modalities, combined with traditional bilateral and multilateral assistance, can chart new paths to achieve universal women's empowerment and gender equality, while contributing to poverty eradication, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as with the previously agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Experience has shown that addressing gender equality and women's empowerment requires strategic interventions at all levels of programming and policy-making. In this regard, key issues to be addressed include: Economic, Social, Educational and Political Empowerment; Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights; and Gender-Based Violence. To this end, this side event will present and discuss some relevant emerging perspectives and innovative development partnerships between the governments of the United Kingdom, Brazil and Mozambique, in cooperation with the United Nations system. The focus will be on related Trilateral and South-South Cooperation work aimed at promoting and achieving women's empowerment and gender equality in Mozambique, which could inspire similar work in other countries.

In early 2015, the UK Government joined efforts with the governments of Brazil and Mozambique and the UN System (UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women) in the initiative "Brazil and Africa: Fighting Poverty and Empowering Women through South-South Cooperation". This initiative seeks to exchange knowledge about successful experiences in poverty reduction, promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in Brazil with low income countries from Sub-Saharan Africa. The objective is to support the drafting and implementation of national policies and programmes and to upscale existing initiatives; with a view to promote social and economic development with inclusion, and with a gender perspective.

Main objectives of the event

- **Share country's perspectives on the progress in implementing CSW agreed conclusions for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and ideas on different/non-traditional ways to work in partnership for the implementation of the CSW's Multi-Year Programme of Work, including through South-South / Triangular and multilateral cooperation, joint high-level policy dialogues and peer learning;**

Expected result: a better understanding on how countries from different regions could learn from one another and work in partnership to promote and advance women's empowerment, at the national, regional and global levels.

- **Explore what should be done differently, through South-South/Trilateral and multilateral cooperation, to achieve the ambitious targets set out by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially under the Global Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls)**

Expected result: a better understanding on how should existing relationships, partnerships and mechanisms evolve (including non-traditional partnerships with new donors, civil society and the private sector) so to be effective in promoting and advancing women's empowerment.

Participants (TO BE CONFIRMED)

Speakers:

Baroness Verma, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for International Development (DFID), Government of the United Kingdom

Minister Nilma Lino Gomes, Ministry of Women, Racial Equality and Human Rights (Ministério das Mulheres, da Igualdade Racial e dos Direitos Humanos), Government of Brazil

Minister Cidália Chaúque Oliveira, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (Ministério de Género, Criança e Acção Social), Government of Mozambique

Commentators:

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary General

Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director and UN Under-Secretary General

Moderator:

Eleonora Menicucci, Director-General for Women's Policies (Secretária Especial de Políticas para as Mulheres), Ministry for Women, Racial Equality and Human Rights, Government of Brazil