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Fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

**Preventing and eliminating violence against women
Multi-stakeholder dialogue
3 March 2006**

Conference Room 3, United Nations Headquarters

Background

The General Assembly has mandated the Secretary-General to prepare an in-depth study on violence against women (A/RES/58/185). The study will be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, in the fall of 2006.

The study of the Secretary-General aims to:

- Highlight the persistence, and unacceptability, of all forms of violence against women in all parts of the world;
- Identify ways and means for better and more sustained and effective implementation of Government commitments and obligations to combat all forms of violence against women, and increase accountability; and
- Strengthen political commitment and joint efforts of all stakeholders to prevent and eliminate violence against women.

As part of the preparatory process, the Division for the Advancement of Women is convening a one-day multi-stakeholder dialogue, on 3 March 2006, in conjunction with the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Objectives

Representatives of Member States and non-governmental organizations will present examples of successful collaboration between Government and civil society in efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women. They will examine the role of different actors, and highlight key principles of successful collaboration. They will identify challenges to successful collaboration and ways for overcoming them. They will also discuss ways for measuring

progress in reducing and eliminating violence against women. Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will provide comments on the case studies.

The dialogue will focus on two areas, namely prevention and elimination of domestic violence/inter-personal violence; and of trafficking in women.

In each of the two areas, key issues that will be addressed include: the preparation and enactment of legislation, its scope and content; measures to ensure the full and comprehensive implementation of legislation, including the role of law enforcement officials and the judiciary; awareness-raising, education and outreach efforts, including combating stereotyped roles; and tracking progress, including data collection.

Format and participants

The dialogue will take place in two segments. During the first segment (10:00 am to 1:00pm), invited panelists – Government representatives and representatives from civil society from the same country – will present their experiences, followed by comments from CEDAW experts and discussion. During the second segment (3:00 to 6:00pm), the dialogue will take place in two working groups, one focusing on domestic violence, and a second one on trafficking. In each group, participants will have an opportunity to present their own experiences, as well as to engage in further discussion with the panelists from the morning meeting. In all instances, particular emphasis will be placed on providing opportunity for both, Government representatives and representatives from non-governmental organizations to contribute to the dialogue.

Representatives of Governments and of non-governmental organizations attending the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women are particularly encouraged to participate.

Panelists in the first segment on domestic violence/intimate partner violence are:

Austria, Brazil, South Africa

Panelists in the first segment on trafficking in women are:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Thailand

Outcome

Facilitators will summarize main lessons from the presentations and discussions, and highlight recommendations made. Their summaries will be a contribution to the Secretary-General's study on violence against women, in particular the chapter on 'good practices'.