



***Violence against women
Workshop for entities of the United Nations system***

**Organized by:
UN Division for the Advancement of Women
Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

**United Nations Headquarters
New York, New York
5-7 December, 2005
ECOSOC Chamber**

Concept note and programme of work

Introduction

In December 2003, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare an in-depth study on all forms and manifestations of violence against women (A/RES/58/185). As part of its preparation of the in-depth study, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is convening a workshop for entities of the United Nations system, from 5 to 7 December 2005, at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The resolution calls for close cooperation with all relevant United Nations bodies in the preparation of the study. Many UN entities participate in the Task Force set up by the Division for the Advancement of Women, provide inputs and feedback for the study. ECE, WHO and UNODC collaborated with the Division in the convening of two expert group meetings (see <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm>). ECLAC coordinates a regional inter-agency group to contribute to the study. An interim report was submitted to the Assembly at its 60th session (A/60/211). The study will be presented to the Assembly at its 61st session in the fall of 2006.

Attention to violence against women in its many different forms and manifestations by entities of the United Nations system has increased in parallel with the expanded consideration of this issue by intergovernmental and expert bodies such as the General Assembly and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. United Nations entities have developed specific programmes on violence against women or include efforts to combat this scourge within the framework of their overall mandates and objectives. Entities contribute to research, normative and policy

development, provide services and support to victims of violence, implement advocacy and awareness raising activities on particular forms of violence against women, and provide funding. Activities are implemented from the national to the global level, in cooperation with Governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

As the impact of violence against women on the achievement of other goals and objectives of the UN system, in particular those of the Millennium Declaration, are becoming more obvious, all United Nations entities have a stake in preventing and ultimately eliminating violence against women. The 2005 World Summit outcome document underlined commitment to the elimination of all form of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child (see A/60/1, para. 58).

The Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, chaired by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, serves as a forum for exchange of information, coordination of policy and programming approaches, and multi-entity collaboration in the development and implementation of common strategies to combat particular forms of violence against women.

Preparation of the study is an opportunity to explore how the entities of the United Nations system can strengthen their response to violence against women as a human rights violation and an obstacle to the achievement of gender equality and other goals in the areas of peace and development, and to ensure systematic attention by all entities to the many different forms and manifestations of violence against women from a policy and operational perspective. It is also an opportunity to prepare the groundwork for effective follow-up, by the United Nations system, to the recommendations that will emanate from the Secretary-General's study on violence against women.

The Division is compiling an inventory of United Nations system activities on violence against women to strengthen the common knowledge base on work that is being implemented by the entities of the United Nations system to combat all forms of violence against women.

Participants

All entities of the United Nations system have been invited to send participant(s) to the workshop. Designation of gender focal points, or focal points on violence against women was particularly encouraged.

Objectives

The workshop will aim to identify strategies for ensuring a more consistent and cohesive response to all forms and manifestations of violence against women by the United Nations system. It will seek to identify gaps in the policy and operational response of the United Nations system, and areas of potential overlap and inconsistencies in approaches. The workshop will also address the question of resources currently available for activities to combat violence against women. It will aim to reach agreement on a more comprehensive and well-coordinated system-wide response to violence against women, including mechanisms for enhanced collaboration and coordination.

Outcome

The workshop will aim to assess the current status of United Nations system work on violence against women, including policy and programme frameworks, and arrive at agreement on:

- Areas requiring more attention, and steps to do so
- Opportunities for enhancing synergies in the work on violence against women across the UN system
- Measures to enhance the resource base for work on violence against women
- Mechanisms for better collaboration, coordination and information exchange.

Format

The workshop will comprise of presentations in plenary followed by comments and discussion. Day one (5 December) will be devoted to discussion about *WHAT* is being done (content issues), the approaches used by different entities to tackle violence against women (ie primarily a public health, crime prevention, human rights perspective), at different levels (ie global, regional, national), areas of focus (ie forms and manifestations of violence against women), and main types of activities (ie research, policy, operational). It will seek to elucidate issues of conceptual coherence, and whether, or to what extent, all issues of violence against women are comprehensively addressed across the system. It will also seek to identify solutions for identified problems. Furthermore, discussion should identify ways in which the UN system will respond systematically and comprehensively to the recommendations that will emanate from the Secretary-General's study.

The presentations will focus on particular aspects, such as policy and programme frameworks; operational activities; advocacy, capacity building and awareness raising efforts. Within each of these areas, gaps and overlaps will be addressed in terms of forms of violence dealt with, constraints and opportunities for addressing them highlighted, and proposals for future work presented. They will highlight challenges and opportunities for enhancing leadership and stakeholder participation, and point out opportunities for enhancing attention to inter-sectionality with entities' overall mandates.

Day two (6 December) will be devoted to discussion about *HOW* the entities of the UN system could enhance coordination and collaboration on violence against women in order to achieve improved results. The meeting will also consider ways for increased attention, within the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), to the issue of violence against women.

Following plenary discussions, working groups will identify points of agreement and concrete recommendations for next steps by the entities of the UN system. Their reports back to plenary will be the basis for the adoption of the workshop's report.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

NB: Scheduled presentations should not exceed 7 minutes. They are intended as a “kick-off” to help focus and structure the discussion

Monday, 5 December 2005

10:00 – 11:00 am **Opening statement by Ms Rachel Mayanja, Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women**

Overview of the programme of work

Overview of UN system activities – Presentation of Inventory

11:00 am – 1:00 pm **Research, policy and normative frameworks**

This segment will address *WHAT* is being done. In this segment, issues such as the following should be addressed:

- What are entities’ main areas of focus, and what gaps and challenges are we facing within our respective areas of focus, and with regard to our respective entity’s primary mandate?
- What gaps can we identify, in terms of coverage of and attention to forms of violence, from a system-wide perspective? How do these gaps affect the overall effectiveness of the UN system in the area of violence against women?
- What are entities’ good practices that need to be more widely shared, utilized?
- How can we build synergies among entities, and across various focus areas?
 - ECLAC
 - OHCHR
 - WHO
 - UNODC

Presentations will be followed by comments and discussion

3:00 – 5:00 pm **Operational activities, capacity building, advocacy, resources**

This segment will address *WHAT* is being done. In this segment, issues such as the following should be addressed:

- What are the main areas of activities, what gaps and challenges are we facing within our respective areas of focus, and with regard to our respective entity’s primary objectives?
- What gaps can we identify, in terms of types of violence addressed, regions/countries, as well as dedicated resources?
- What is the focus of country teams/theme groups in regard to violence against women, what institutional and resource constraints do they face, and how can those be overcome?
- What are entities’ good practices that need to be more widely shared, utilized?
- What are some of the innovative multi-agency strategies for the elimination of violence against women, how were they developed, and what impact have they had?
 - UNICEF
 - WFP

- UNIFEM
- UNDP
- UNFPA

Presentations will be followed by comments and discussion

Tuesday, 6 December 2005

10:00am – 1:00pm Building institutional linkages and frameworks

Based on the discussion on approaches of the first day, the second day will focus on *HOW* we can enhance system-wide coordination and collaboration in the area of violence against women. Issues such as the following should be addressed:

- What coordination/collaboration mechanisms are currently in place? What are their shortcomings?
- What mechanisms do we need to raise the scope, scale and impact of the UN system's work on violence against women?
- What are the roles of entity heads and focal points?
- How can we successfully link global/regional with country level activities?
- How do we build knowledge networks that enable regular exchange of information, expertise, experiences and good practices?
- How will the UN system carry forward the recommendations to emanate from the study on violence against women?

3:00 – 6:00 pm Working groups

The number of working groups remains to be determined. Two working groups could be established, whereby one working group would develop recommendations on activities, and the second group would work on institutional frameworks and mechanisms.

Wednesday, 7 December 2005

11:00 – 1:00 pm Review and adoption of report and strategy for future action

<p>Lunchtime: Please join us for a WHO/DAW panel to present the 2005 WHO multi-country study on violence against women, to highlight the Secretary-General's study on violence against women and the results of workshop.</p>
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