



2008 ECOSOC coordination segment – Round table discussion (III)

“The role of the Economic and Social Council in addressing violence against women in all its forms and manifestations: A dialogue with the chairpersons of the functional commissions” - **Tuesday, 8 July, 4-6 pm**

Concept Note

Background

The General Assembly, in resolution 58/185, requested the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study on all forms of violence against women. The study was considered by the Assembly at its 61st session, and resulted in the adoption of resolution 61/143 on “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women”.

The resolution invited the Economic and Social Council and its functional commission to discuss by 2008 the question of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations and to set priorities for addressing this issue in their future efforts and work programmes. It also invited these bodies to transmit the outcome of those discussions to the Secretary-General for his annual report to the General Assembly on this issue.

Since the adoption of the resolution, several functional commissions have implemented follow-up activities.

Objective of the round table

The round table on the question of violence against women in all its forms and manifestations will provide an opportunity for the Council to consider how it can address the issue in its future work programme, and to set priorities for its future efforts.

In particular, the round table provides an opportunity:

- To reflect on the link between violence against women and the mandates of the Council and its functional commissions;
- To identify priorities for addressing this issue within the Council's mandate, and those of its functional commissions and their future efforts and work programmes;
- To identify ways for the Council to contribute to the prevention and elimination of violence against women in its work, including in its oversight function of the work of the functional commissions.

The Council may wish to transmit the outcome of the discussion and any subsequent action it may wish to take to the Secretary-General for his annual report to the General Assembly [e.g. ECOSOC President's summary of the present round table discussion].

Suggested format of the round table discussion and participants

The Chairpersons of several functional commissions - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Commission for Social Development (CSocD), UN Statistical Commission (UNSD), Commission on Population and Development (CPD) – will be invited to make brief opening comments of 3-5 minutes, reflecting on the linkage between violence against women and the implementation of their mandates. In particular, the Chairs could present examples of this link, how they have addressed it, and where they see future opportunities for contributing to the common challenge of addressing violence against women.

Following these opening remarks, Council Members and Observers will provide comments and recommendations on the role of the Council in addressing this challenge within its own mandate, including in its oversight function in regard to the functional

commissions. The round table will be moderated by the chairperson of the CSW, who will also summarize the discussion in his concluding remarks.

Documentation

The following documents will be made available to support the discussion: 1) the present concept note; 2) the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women - A/61/122/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1; and 3) General Assembly resolution 61/143 on this issue. These documents are also available on the website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm>