



2011 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION COORDINATION SEGMENT

Panel I

“Leadership, coordination and accountability: evaluating the United Nations system’s work on gender equality and women’s empowerment”

Wednesday, 13 July, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and context

At the high-level segment of its substantive session in 2010, the Economic and Social Council adopted a Ministerial Declaration on “Implementing the internationally agreed development goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women”. The Declaration connected gender equality and the empowerment of women to the broader development agenda, and recommended a series of gender-related policy measures considered essential to achieve the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The adoption of the Ministerial Declaration coincided with the establishment of UN Women, with a founding resolution that consolidates the mandates and functions of the four entities that comprise it “with the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the UN system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women”.

Objective and proposed focus of the panel

It is proposed that a panel discussion be held during the 2011 Coordination segment of ECOSOC to take stock of efforts undertaken by the United Nations system since the adoption of the 2010 Ministerial Declaration. It would provide an opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen the UN system’s coordinated approach to gender equality and empowerment of women, within the context of UN Women’s new leadership role, and how it could contribute to more effective mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all areas. It would also provide an opportunity for an update on new initiatives by the UN system and UN Women to promote accountability of the UN System in this area. Possible questions to be addressed could include:

- How have the entities of the United Nations system contributed so far to the implementation of the 2010 Ministerial Declaration? What are the country-level experiences to date and where can coordination be better streamlined in order to accelerate progress in the achievement of the gender-related MDGs?
- How can accountability processes and mechanisms continue to be strengthened and developed within the United Nations system in a coherent, coordinated and consistent manner so as to assess progress and gaps at all levels of the system's efforts to mainstream gender perspectives at policy level as well as in operational activities?
- What must be done to achieve the goal of more sustained results on gender equality and empowerment of women on the ground? How can the UN system effectively draw on its combined strengths to support its national partners?

Proposed panelists:

Chair: H.E. Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York

Moderator (and panelist): Ms. Michelle Bachelet, USG and Executive Director, UN Women

Panelists: Dr. Flavia Bustreo, Assistant Director-General, Family, Women's and Children's Health, WHO
 Ms. Mari Simonen, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA
 Ms. Ann Tutwiler, Deputy Director-General, FAO
 Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Assistant Administrator, UNDP
 Ms. Geeta Rao Gupta, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF