

High-level Launch Event of the European Union and the United Nations
"Spotlight Initiative" to eliminate violence against women and girls
2-4 p.m.; 20 September 2017,
Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters

Objective

To launch the "Spotlight Initiative" - a new global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Context

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in the world today. It is a major obstacle to the fulfilment of women's and girls' human rights and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) are embarking on a new global, multi-year initiative focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Spotlight Initiative will deploy targeted, large-scale investments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and the Caribbean, aimed at achieving significant improvements in the lives of women and girls. The Initiative is intended to make visible a renewed investment in and commitment to gender equality. It also intends to spearhead a new joined-up approach and partnership between the UN and the EU to deliver on the SDGs in an integrated manner, in line with respective mandates.

An initial investment in the order of EUR 500 million will be made, with the EU as the main contributor. Other donors and partners will be invited to join the Initiative to broaden its reach and scope. The modality for the delivery will be a UN multi-stakeholder trust fund, administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office and overseen by the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General.