





other sexually transmitted illnesses had helped educate the public on men's roles and responsibilities. Participants agreed that more efforts were needed in the area of prevention, such as efforts to disseminate information on sexually transmitted illnesses and increased condom use. Participants emphasized that Governments needed to do more in the area of providing health services, and that more resources were needed.

7. Participants discussed the role of gender stereotyping in perpetuating the unequal sharing of responsibilities between women and men and its contribution to unequal access to opportunities, including in education, employment and political participation. Gender stereotypes had contributed to women bearing a disproportionate burden of household and caregiving responsibilities, regardless of their socio-economic status and involvement in both formal and informal employment. In addition, in many societies women were less valued and violence against women was widely accepted. Men, on the other hand, were viewed as full-time breadwinners and deficient caregivers.

8. To address gender stereotypes, participants stressed that solutions must include sustained activities to move people's mindsets towards more egalitarian gender roles. Several good practices were highlighted, including developing and enforcing legislation prohibiting discrimination and stereotypes; changing negative sayings/proverbs into more positive ones; implementing targeted awareness-raising campaigns; and engaging educational institutions, the media, religious and community leaders and civil society in challenging stereotypes. A number of countries had established awards for individuals, companies and institutions that promoted gender equality and the elimination of stereotypes. The importance of role models was also stressed. The decision of the Prime Minister of Norway to take one month's paternity leave was noted as an important example. The need to address harmful customary and traditional practices, such as early marriage, was also raised. Participants stressed in particular the role and influence of the media, including in portraying positive images of both women and men as caregivers. It was noted that mass media efforts were most successful when combined with targeted outreach efforts, for example in schools, the workplace or local community groups.

9. To address care needs and persisting inequalities and imbalances in the division of work between women and men, participants noted that strong policy and legislative measures were required in a range of areas, such as social protection, the labour market, health, education and infrastructure. Participants emphasized the need to discuss how policies were developed. It was noted, for example, that many health and social policies ignored the role of fathers and the caregiving responsibilities of men, thus reinforcing the stereotype of women as caregivers. For example, in some countries, family-policy measures were based on the goal of equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, while in others policy measures had rather been informed by notions of men "assisting" women.

10. Participants stressed the need to do more to engage men and boys in caregiving at the household level and in paid care work. The importance of promoting active and responsible fatherhood was discussed. While some men were increasing their participation in childcare, the involvement of men remained relatively low overall. A number of examples of ways to positively engage men and boys were provided, such as encouraging men's involvement in childbirth and prenatal care, scaling up fatherhood preparation courses and providing opportunities

for boys to participate in caring work in various settings of socialization, including in the home, schools, and religious institutions. Several countries involved men in national awareness-raising campaigns on the role of men in promoting gender equality, and on issues such as violence against women. These initiatives resulted in a change in attitudes and in increased participation in care work at home by men and

stronger efforts must be made to involve all relevant stakeholders, including