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contributing to its likelihood is complex. Therefore, effective prevention of violence against women and girls requires a comprehensive, coordinated and holistic strategy that includes the following: implementing legal and policy reforms; changing institutional culture and strengthening institutional capacity and multisectoral coordination to prevent and respond to violence; promoting, protecting and ensuring the enjoyment by all women and girls of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; and engaging all segments of society to change the attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that condone or perpetuate violence.

12. Involving men and boys in efforts to end violence against women and girls is essential. Work with men and boys has expanded and has been strengthened worldwide. Actions, such as awareness-raising and sensitization efforts targeted at men and boys, the fostering of models of non-violent manhood and new perspectives on masculinity and macho culture, educating men about gender equality and women's human rights, and mentoring young men and boys at critical stages of development, are increasingly being implemented. Other efforts have targeted men and boys who have perpetrated violence against women and girls, and have been focused on changes in behaviour.

13. While progress has been made in working with men and boys, efforts have usually been limited in terms of their impact and sustainability. In order to address this challenge, participants called for the expansion of interventions into systematic, large-scale and coordinated programmes. It is also important to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations that work with men and boys and to ensure that initiatives include a broad range of strategies that reach large numbers of men. Such work should be guided by the goal of achieving gender equality and advancing the human rights of women and girls.

14. Engaging with community, traditional and religious leaders are critical to preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. Efforts have increased to engage traditional and religious leaders to end practices such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage and to ensure access for women and girls to the formal justice system. Good practices include commitments made by religious leaders to working with Governments to eradicate harmful traditional practices, including by issuing religious decrees to that effect, as well as the development of formal government agencies, including ministerial departments, to work exclusively with traditional leaders in promoting positive cultural practices and eliminating those that discriminate against women.

15. Participants confirmed that efforts to prevent and raise awareness about violence against women and girls and to counteract attitudes that perpetuate such violence are important. These include national campaigns, some targeting the general public and others directed at particular groups of women and girls, young people, and men and boys; changes to educational curricula and teacher training; publications and websites that inform victims/survivors of their rights and available services; and television and theatrical performances in schools. Participants noted the importance of raising awareness about women's sexual and reproductive health rights in this respect. The media were cited as an important mechanism for raising public awareness, but partic

and practices conducive to violence against women continue to persist and to perpetuate a culture of silence. Leadership at all levels — local, national, regional and international — and in all sectors to end all forms of violence against women is critical for sustained action to end societal tolerance of, and complicity in, violence against women.

16. Many participants emphasized the increase in support and services for victims/survivors of violence against women and girls at the national level. This includes the establishment of shelters and safe houses, national hotlines, mobile health clinics and free legal services, as well as access to housing and employment. Integrated and coordinated responses made through one-stop centres located in hospitals and other stand-alone locations have proved to be effective. Improved responses by law enforcement officials have led to an increase in the reporting of violence by women victims/survivors. Many women, however, are still not able to make use of the services and responses necessary for addressing the physical, mental, emotional and socioeconomic impacts of violence. This is owing to a lack of availability, especially in rural and remote areas, as well as to a lack of accessibility, particularly for women and girls who suffer multiple forms of discrimination. Further efforts are needed in order to ensure that all victims/survivors have access to adequate and coordinated services and that those services and responses are sufficiently funded.

17. Compiling a strong evidence base is crucial to ending violence against women and girls. Comprehensive and accurate data, including improved qualitative and quantitative data and statistics, are necessary to enable us to understand the causes, consequences and prevalence of violence against women and girls, to develop and implement appropriate laws, policies and strategies, and to monitor and evaluate their effectiveness. National capacity to collect reliable data has been enhanced through the dedicated efforts of national mechanisms, in particular statistical offices, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies. Yet, inadequate data and statistics on violence against women remain a major gap. Multidisciplinary research,