

20 March 2013

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Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-seventh session

4-15 March 2013

Agenda item 3 (a) (ii)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: review theme: the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

Gender norms and stereotypes, socialization and unequal power relations, and sharing and balancing life-work responsibilities

Moderator’s summary

1. On 12 March 2013, the Commission on the Status of Women held an



implement legal and social protection for domestic workers in line with that Convention, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant international human rights standards.

16. Participants drew attention to a range of other concerns and challenges affecting the reconciliation of work, family and care responsibilities and the transformation of gender norms and stereotypes. These included demographic changes contributing to growing care needs, the impact of the ongoing global financial and economic crisis and the effects of fiscal austerity measures, when cutbacks in public services and/or increases in user charges reduce household access to those services. Such changes and cutbacks are often compensated for by women and girls, increasing their work burden within the household. Several participants noted that budgetary commitments to the implementation of gender equality commitments were still insufficient.

Recommendations to accelerate implementation

17. The discussion confirmed the value and continued relevance of the recommendations put forward in the 2009 agreed conclusions and the need for renewed attention and accelerated action to implement them. There was agreement that addressing deep-rooted social norms and practices requires a holistic approach with actions at many different levels. Such an approach may target educational systems, the labour market, leadership and the media to foster images, attitudes, behaviours and learning that promote and foster gender equality and the equal sharing of responsibility, as well as women's and men's equal access to opportunities, resources, services and decision-making.

18. In particular, participants emphasized the following actions to accelerate implementation of the agreed conclusions:

(a) Ratifying relevant legal instruments, including labour, employment and human rights instruments, and having gender-sensitive national legal frameworks in place that are harmonized with international norms and standards promoting non-discrimination and gender equality;

(b) Ensuring that normative frameworks and legislation are translated into

