

Also under agenda item 3(a), the report of the Secretary-General on “Proposals for a multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women” is before the Commission in document E/CN.6/2009/3 and E/CN.6/2009/3/Corr.1.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Under agenda item 3 (b) on Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men, the Commission will convene an expert panel (on Thursday 5 March from 3-6pm) to explore “*The gender perspectives of the international financial crisis*”. An issues paper is available to guide discussions.

The Commission will also review progress in national level implementation of agreed conclusions adopted at a previous session – the agreed conclusions on “*The equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels*”, adopted at its 50th session in 2006. An interactive dialogue (on Friday, 6 March from 10am to 1pm) will be introduced by keynote speakers. An issues paper is available to guide the discussions. In this context, I am pleased to inform delegates that the agreed conclusions from 2006 on this theme are available in brochure form.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

Under agenda item 3 (c), the Commission has before it a number of reports and conference room papers, including the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women for the period October 2007 to September 2008, contained in document E/CN.6/2009/5, and the report on Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS (E/CN.6/2009/6).

The joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the
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Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

The General Assembly, in resolution A/RES/63/155, requested the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-third session with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 61/143 and 62/133, including on the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women.

Member States will recall that updates on activities of the United Nations system have been provided to the Commission on the Status of Women at the last session, as well as to the General Assembly at its 63rd session. The update before you in a document entitled "Preventing and eliminating violence against women. United Nations system activities on violence against women" covers the period from September 2008 to January 2009. A total of 18 offices and entities and 3 interagency mechanisms provided contributions. I would like to draw your particular attention to a new section on the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to end violence against women".

Addressing violence against women through legal reform is the topic of a joint dialogue of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, today at lunchtime in this room. The Deputy Secretary-General will make opening remarks at this panel. I would like to congratulate the two commissions on this initiative, which is a good practice example of cooperation between functional commissions of the ECOSOC.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

I would like to briefly highlight some of the major activities undertaken by the Division since the 52nd session of the Commission in the area of violence against women, as follow-up to the General Assembly resolutions calling for intensified efforts to eliminate violence against women, and in support of the Secretary-General's Campaign: UNiTE to end violence against women. This has included work in the areas of legislation, strengthening of the knowledge base, and awareness-raising and information dissemination on violence against women.

On 5 March at lunchtime in this room, the Deputy Secretary-General will launch the Secretary-General's database on violence against women. The database has been developed by the Division for the Advancement of Women in follow-up to resolution 61/143 and will be the first consolidated source of information on measures undertaken by Member States to address violence against women, and on available research and statistical data. It will contain information on Member States' legal frameworks; policies, programmes and strategies; institutional mechanisms; services for victims/survivors; and preventive measures and training. The primary source of information for the database is the responses to the questionnaire on violence against women sent to all Member States in September 2008. To date, 61 Member States have responded, and I encourage those that have not yet done so to provide their inputs. I also encourage Member States to continue to provide updates as new information and documents become available, to ensure that the database remains as up-to-date and useful as possible.

[The Division, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, organized an expert group meeting on good practices in legislation, in May 2008. The meeting prepared a model framework for legislation with detailed recommendations, commentaries and examples of good practices, intended to serve as a tool for the development, adoption and amendment of legislation which prevents violence against women, punishes perpetrators, and ensures the rights of survivors of violence against women everywhere. Positive feedback has been received from a number of countries on the use of this framework. The Division plans to issue the framework as a resource kit translated into all UN languages.]

The Division has strengthened its awareness-raising and information dissemination activities in regard to violence against women. We have published and widely disseminated the first two issues of our electronic newsletter “*Words to Action*” on violence against women, which contains information on resources and events undertaken by Member States and UN entities to address violence against women, as well as substantive analyses of pertinent topics. The feature article in issue # 2 of the newsletter examines developments over time in legislation on violence against women. We have also updated and significantly revised our website to provide better access to information on this issue.]

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

[Over the past year, the Division continued to provide technical assistance to Member States, on request, to enhance their capacity at national level for the promotion of gender equality. In 2008, the Division continued its programme of support to countries emerging from conflict to implement the Convention, including Liberia and Haiti. We are pleased that Haiti presented its combined initial to seventh periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in January. We also congratulate Liberia for submitting its report last September, and we continue to provide support to the preparations for the presentation of the report to the Committee in July.]

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Excellencies and Distinguished delegates

In response to the request of ECOSOC (2006/9) for broad dissemination of the agreed conclusions of the Commission, the Division for the Advancement of Women has continued to provide the agreed conclusions in a user-friendly brochure format. To date, the agreed conclusions from the fifty-first and fifty-second sessions on “*The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl-child*” and “*Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women*” are available in this format in the six official languages. In addition, the agreed conclusions from the forty-eighth session on “*The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality*”