DRAFT Concept Note: CSW 59 INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE

A conversation among various gender equality advocates and stakeholders across generations to discuss strategies and perspectives that can accelerate the achieving of gender equality by 2030.

Date: Friday, 13 March 2015

Time: 9:30am-6:00pm

Venue: ECOSOC Chamber

Background:

2015 represents a critical time, as we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted in 1995. This very important agreement, adopted by the governments of the world, remains the biggest and boldest commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment worldwide. In 2015, world leaders will also adopt a global development agenda to accelerate human development, human progress and human rights for the next 15 years, setting new goals for the world to implement. 2015 will also see the review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on women, peace and security and the 21st Conference of Parties meeting on Climate Change that will seek to achieve a legally binding protocol from all parties on climate change. It will be an opportunity to review achievements and challenges, and accelerate progress towards a transformative development agenda.

Despite the important gains for women and girls around the world, and advances in literacy, formal education, reproductive health, life expectancy, workforce participation, and access to some professions, new forms of misogyny, exacerbated violence, reassertion of masculine authority and patriarchal power and forms of discriminations have also emerged. In a highly politicized environment aggravated by economic crises and insurgence of new forms of extremism and conservativism, it has become urgent and essential to strengthen the voice and the democratic influence of civil society and the women’s movement including among the new generation of young advocates, who are all key actors in achieving gender equality, women’s empowerment and women’s rights.

The World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report 2014 shows slow progress on the gender gap for economic participation and opportunity (just 4 percentage points from 2006 to 2014). If the goal of the
expiration of gender inequality by 2030 is to be achieved, stakeholders need to embrace and execute game-changing strategies and policies to accelerate change.

The 59th session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2015 will undertake a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). This will be the occasion for policy makers and stakeholders to engage more substantively with each other, including with the women’s movement and other social justice movements, youth and civil society organizations (CSOs) including faith-based, indigenous, disability and other groups, in the review process of the Beijing Platform for Action and in the post 2015 development agenda.

The Intergenerational Dialogue Day:

UN Women plays a crucial, catalytic role in convening CSOs and creating dynamic spaces for their involvement and contribution to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

In this context, one of UN Women’s flagship events at CSW 59 is the Intergenerational Dialogue Day. Organized by the Civil Society Section at UN Women, this one-day event aims at creating the space for dialogue that is necessary to develop transformative strategies and perspectives on achieving gender equality by 2030, through engagement of key constituencies, including young people, men and boys, faith based organizations, indigenous groups, disability groups, LGBTIQ groups, social justice actors, the private sector and the media. The daylong event is expected to galvanize the new generation of gender equality activists across these various constituencies as they engage with the Beijing generation of civil society leaders, grassroots activists, academics, policy makers and other stakeholders, making it a truly intergenerational dialogue.

Objectives

- To engage multiple stakeholders in cross-generational and cross-sectional conversations on gender equality, with a view to explore intersectional and comprehensive approaches to accelerating gender equality.
- To facilitate alliances, partnerships and knowledge exchange among various social justice and gender equality advocates across generations; and with a view to amplify the voice of the women’s movement as a political actor and enrol new voices to strengthen advocacy and policy action.

Format

- The event will use participatory formats as much as possible, to create the opportunities for democratic, inclusive and diverse conversations on gender equality
- Discussion formats will bring together policy, academic, activist, and institutional perspectives
- The day will be structured into 3 sections
- The day will use 3 types of formats for discussions - moderated audience speak-outs; interactive panel discussions; TED- style presentations
- The day also features story telling performances as part of the discussion spaces
• Every dialogue session will have both structured and spontaneous engagement with the audience.
• The event will be broadcast live and will provide opportunities for people in other parts of the world to participate through social media, live chats, and on-line questions.

**Story-telling:** The sessions will be complemented by powerful storytelling performances from young people and gender equality advocates, who will tell their stories related to the work they have done on women’s rights and gender equality; they will also propose actions/recommendations to address the situations described in their stories. This initiative is part of a process of building “Story-telling Collaborates” that the CSO Gender at Work is piloting with an organization called TMI Project.

**Participants:** The event will bring together leaders and advocates from the women’s movement including young women and girls, feminist scholars, advocates and activists from various social justice movements including disability rights groups, indigenous women’s rights groups, LGBTIQ rights groups, men and boys working as gender equality advocates, labour and migrant rights groups, faith based groups, policy makers, UN experts, government representatives and media, from diverse regions and age groups.

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**Outline of the day**

**Opening:** 9:30-10:00

Opening remarks by UN Women Executive Director

Master of Ceremonies introduces the day

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I. **Gender Equality 2030** 10:00-11:30

**Interactive Panel Discussion**

The discussion will focus on some of the key determinants of the gender goal in the post 2015 development agenda; what is required to achieve it, taking into consideration, challenges and advances.

**Suggested topics based on the gender goal targets:**

- Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work
- Investing in and financing for gender equality

Panel discussion: A discussion facilitated by a moderator. Moderator will set the stage for the discussion; 4/5 experts will make short presentations on specified topics; designated respondents will
respond from the floor to the panellists. The moderator will then stimulate discussion among the panellists, respondents and the audience. At the end of the discussion, the moderator will ask a member of the audience to comment on the key points of the discussion.

**Suggested Moderator:** senior feminist academic/Gender Studies scholar

Respondents from the floor representing different constituencies – Disabilities; Conflict/Middle East; LGBTIQ; Trade unions; Young men; Young women

*Intermezzo: storytelling (10 minutes)*

**II. Strengthening civil society: Intersectionality; Inclusiveness; Influence 11:45-13:30**

**TED talk session**

The discussion will focus on the importance of a strong women’s movement in achieving gender equality and in this context, the role of civil society as a political actor and the engagement of the women’s movement with new constituencies.

**Suggested topics:**

- Transnational feminist movements and how they have shaped the gender equality agenda
- The role of young women as new leaders of civil society today
- How can men and boys be part of the women’s rights and gender equality movement
- The role of faith based groups in advancing the women’s rights agenda

TED Talk: 3 /4 speakers will kick off the discussion; each speaker will give a short, sharp presentation on specific aspects of the discussion. The moderator will stimulate the discussion by focussing on what has been presented and raise some questions and issues with the audience. Members of the audience will reflect/comment/question/discuss with the speakers and among themselves, facilitated by the moderator. At the end, the moderator will summarize the key points of the discussion.

**Moderator:** Male gender equality advocate

Respondents from the floor will include: sexual rights advocates; indigenous rights advocates; activists; young women leaders and activists; male advocates for gender equality; FBOs; focus on geographical diversity and lesser-known voices

*Intermezzo: storytelling (10 minutes)*

*** LUNCH break – 13:30-14:45 ***
III. Women’s Voice, Leadership and Power 15:00-17:00

Speak out session:

The discussion will highlight the different theatres of women’s leadership and participation, drawing upon the gender equality goal: Ensure women’s full and equal participation and leadership in decision-making in public and private spheres, including in peacebuilding and transitional justice institutions

Suggested topics:

- Women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life
- Instrumentalization of information and power; enabling technologies, in particular ICT, to promote women’s empowerment
- Women’s participation in peace processes and transitional institutions for the administration of reparations and relief and recovery activities

Speak outs: The conversation will begin with the audience; the facilitator will give the floor to audience members to raise issues with identified experts. The experts will address the issues raised by the audience and the facilitator will then engage the audience on the responses given by the experts.

Experts will include: Eminent women political leaders; senior women in corporate/tech sector; eminent women activists/ UN Special Rapporteur working on peace and security agendas; UN Women executive leadership

Moderator: UN Women

Audience speakers will include youth leaders, young feminist internet activists, eminent feminists; political leaders, civil society leaders and voices, including from Beijing 1995 conference

This session will be the closing session and will include closing remarks from UN Women executive leadership

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Final closing (30 minutes: 17:00-17:30) – culmination storytelling performance, reflecting the day and the intergenerational dialogue

MC closes the day

List of potential invitees and participants:

- Activists and advocates from the Beijing 1995 conference
- Contemporary women’s rights and women’s movement leaders and activists
- Gender equality advocates
• Young women and girl leaders and organizations
• Feminist scholars and academics including from UC Berkeley
• Civil Society Advisory Group members
• NGOs, think tanks, media institutes, civil society organizations
• LGBTIQ activists and organizations
• Indigenous Issues and Rights activists and organizations
• Disability Rights activists and organizations
• Men and boys advocates for gender equality
• FBOs (interfaith) and leaders
• Human rights defenders
• Eminent journalists
• HeForShe personalities
• Media and technology leaders and experts
• Women political leaders/former heads of State
• Policy makers
• Young activists
• UN experts and agencies
• CSO networks including on humanitarian issues, peace and security issues, trade unions, parliamentarian unions, among others