

## Annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women

### Panel 2: Women's rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: health and gender equality

*Concept note (as of 18 May 2017)*

<b>Date and venue:</b>	<b>13 June 2016, 3 - 6 p.m.</b> , Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva (will be broadcast live and archived on <a href="http://webtv.un.org">http://webtv.un.org</a> )
<b>Objectives:</b>	Recognizing the centrality of gender equality to the success of the 2030 Agenda, the panel discussion will provide an opportunity to discuss how to operationalize the Sustainable Development Goals in compliance with human rights obligations, particularly related to gender equality and paying attention to the impact of intersecting forms of discrimination. It will be an opportunity for States, United Nations entities, civil society and other stakeholders to share good practices and suggestions on how to implement people-centred approaches to development, specifically in the area of gender equality, so as to deliver on the promise to leave no one behind.
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>H.E. Mr. Joaquin Alexander Maza Martelli</b> , President of the Human Rights Council
<b>Opening statement:</b>	<b>Ms. Kate Gilmore</b> , United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Dr. Flavia Bustreo</b> , Assistant Director-General for Family, Women's and Children's Health, World Health Organization (WHO)
<b>Panellists:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>H.E. Ms. Tarja Halonen</b>, former President of Finland and Co-Chair of the High-Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents</li><li>● <b>H.E. Ms. Cristina Lustemberg</b>, Vice-Minister of Health, Uruguay</li><li>● <b>Ms. Smriti Thapa</b>, Coordinator, Youth Champions Advocacy Network Nepal (YCANN)</li><li>● <b>Dr. Charles Kiggundu</b>, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Mulago National Hospital, and former President of the Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Uganda</li></ul>
<b>Outcome:</b>	A summary report of the panel discussion will be prepared.
<b>Mandate:</b>	In its resolution 6/30, the Human Rights Council reaffirmed the principle of gender equality and the need for the full implementation of the human rights of women and decided to hold an annual full day of discussion on the human rights of women. The afternoon panel discussion will address the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a focus on Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).
<b>Format:</b>	<p>The opening statement by the Deputy High Commissioner and initial presentations by the panellists, guided by the moderator, will be followed by an interactive discussion with States and observers intervening from the floor. The list of speakers for the discussion will be established at the beginning of the panel and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups will be moved to the beginning of the list. States and observers, including representatives of civil society, take the floor for a 2-minute intervention each (total 45 minutes), followed by responses from panellists (15 minutes). A second round of interventions from the floor (45 minutes) will be followed by responses and concluding remarks from the panellists and the moderator (15 minutes).</p> <p>To make the panel interactive, speakers are encouraged to focus their interventions on the themes of the panellists either by asking the panellists questions or sharing concrete examples</p>

and relevant national experience. Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

**Background:** Resolution 70/1 adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 established a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets. With 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, the new universal 2030 Agenda seeks to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The afternoon panel of the Council's 2016 annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women was devoted to a broad theme of women's rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This year, the panel aims to focus more specifically on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 3 (health) and 5 (gender equality).

It is widely recognized that Goals 3 and 5 are integrally linked – women's ability to enjoy their right to health is undermined when they suffer discrimination, when their right to education is denied and when they are unable to access financial and other productive resources in order to prosper. The link between gender-based violence and ill-health is particularly pertinent in this regard. Conversely, evidence demonstrates that where women's right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, is upheld, they are more able to claim their rights to education, to work, to equality within the family and beyond. Approaching these issues in an integrated way is critical to delivering on the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

The efforts to support the implementation of Goals 3 and 5 are already underway. The Secretary-General launched in September 2015 an updated Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030) to help further the Sustainable Development Goals. The Global Strategy sets out a roadmap for realizing, by 2030, a world in which every woman, child and adolescent in every setting realizes their rights to physical and mental health and well-being, has social and economic opportunities, and is able to participate fully in shaping prosperous and sustainable societies.

In 2016, the WHO Director-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights established the High-Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents, composed of prominent global leaders in health and human rights, to advise how to mobilize political will, to bring all actors together and to enhance accountability in order to make human rights a reality for women, children and adolescents who are overlooked or marginalized and in order to ensure that they can lead dignified, healthy and productive lives. The Working Group delivered its report in May 2017.

Building on the progress already made, this panel discussion will bring together experts to discuss how to deliver healthy lives and promote well-being for all women at all ages – girls, adolescents, women in productive and reproductive age and older women – by eliminating discrimination and violence against women and ensuring their full and effective participation.

**Background documents:** Documents and resolutions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and on the human rights of women in relation to development:

- [Human Rights Council resolution 6/30](#) (14 December 2007), "Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system"
- [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#) (25 September 2015), "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"
- United Nations web page on [Sustainable Development Goals and Targets](#)
- [International Conference on Population and Development, Programme of Action](#) (1994)
- [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (1995)
- [The Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health](#) (2016-2030)
- The report of the High-Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents (hyperlink to be added after its launch on 22 May)