

Human Rights Council – 30th session – September 2015

Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms – with a focus on gender parity

Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development

Action Canada makes this statement in collaboration with the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We welcome the annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective with a focus on gender parity throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms. We are deeply concerned with the gender imbalance in the UN system including in most UN committees

Similarly worldwide women constitute a very small minority in Government and Parliaments. This is despite research indicating that more women representation affects the overall functioning of these bodies. Perhaps one of the reasons for this under representation is that appointment of women has an inherent gender bias and stereotyping of women into the traditionally misunderstood “soft areas”. According to research by Inter Parliamentary Union, as of January 2015, only 17 per cent of government ministers were women, with the majority overseeing social sectors, such as education and the family.

Would the panellists elaborate on and discuss the challenge of relegating women to stereotyped roles and responsibilities and ways to overcome this?

Mr. President, we would also like to point out that gender parity in representation should not only include women but all those persons who are not gender conforming. We are deeply concerned with discussion of gender excluding transgender and other gender non-confirming people.

We would also like to ask the panellists on how one can expand the scope of discussion to go beyond binary ideas of gender at the very least in the UN system.

Thank you!