

Fact sheet No. 1 – Planning and evaluation to ensure integration of a gender perspective into the work of the Human Rights Council

This fact sheet has been prepared for the purpose of highlighting to States the framework for gender integration and how it could be used in the work of the Council.

What is integration of a gender perspective?

"Integration of a gender perspective" means addressing how that gender inequality (the social, political and economic disadvantages women face *vis a vis* men) has wide-ranging and far-reaching effects on women's and men's human rights in all areas of life. A gender perspective can be integrated into policy, law, programming, and service provision –or in this case, in the work of bodies of the UN. This integration brings an analysis of "gender" to any discussion. It can mean attention to the experiences of men as well as women, although gender integration is generally taken to imply integrating analysis and experiences of women into places where they have often been neglected. For the purposes of this proposal, the human rights of women are of primary concern, while we acknowledge that "gender integrations" indeed speaks to gender-related experiences of all people.

Integration of a gender perspective includes consistent attention to:

- Identifying and recognizing all ways that all human rights of women and men are to be respected, protected, promoted and fulfilled on a basis of equality.
- Recognizing whether, when, where, and how gender inequality affects and /or harms women and girls, particularly in relation human rights violations –whether they target individuals, groups or entire communities. Examples include the use of forced pregnancy in the context of "ethnic cleansing", or the disproportionate responsibility of -maintaining and reconstructing family and community falling on women in forced displacement.
- Recognizing and acknowledging whether, when, where and how steps can be taken to ensure women's access to and enjoyment of all human rights.
 - Identifying and recognizing human rights violations that target women because of their gender—or ways in which comparable violations can affect women either differently or disproportionately. (For example, both women and men are raped, but only women can become pregnant as a result.)
- Engaging with the contexts and circumstances of rights violations, their consequences and the availability and accessibility of reparations, in order to provide processes, resolutions and mechanisms that would enable women to access and enjoy all their human rights on the basis of equality .

How can a gender perspective be integrated into the work of the Human Rights Council?

In order to ensure gender is integrated into the work of the Council, the Council needs to undertake gender-specific analysis in and of all aspects of its work. All reports submitted to the Council, whether by member states, special rapporteurs, working groups or expert advice bodies should entail consideration, analysis and assessment of gender and gender inequality, including gender roles, relations and identities. This would mean considering these issues in the specific context of policies, programmes, agenda items, mechanisms, composition of bodies, and the procedural and substantive review of human rights violations.

The Council already has access to information on certain specific issues, particularly violence against women, in large part due to the work of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences. However, the Council's full integration of women's human rights requires additional information on and analysis of women's enjoyment of the full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;

The Council must also ensure that all human rights bodies and mechanisms make use of the

following methodologies for working and reporting:

- **Sex-disaggregated data:** For all categories of information, data disaggregated on the basis of sex should be provided. Such data should further be disaggregated by race, nationality, disability, age, ethnic or religious identity, labor status (e.g. migrant), class, caste or other factors as appropriate.
- **Sources of information:** These sources should be expanded systemically to include women's NGOs and community-based organizations; NGOs concerned with minority rights and rights of marginalized groups; national government offices for women's affairs; organizations of professional groups (lawyers, judges, doctors etc.); trade unions; and academic institutions. Groups that do not carry gender or women's issues as an express brief should nonetheless be asked about gender issues. All information about the implementation of human rights must reflect women's voices and concerns.
- **On-site visits:** Preparations for on-site visits should include: (i) developing contacts with a wide range of sources likely to have information or expertise on the situation of the human rights of women; (ii) gathering gender-specific information on national law and practices; and (iii) encouraging all local actors participating in the visit to consider a gender perspective. Women with expertise on women's human rights, as well as women interpreters, should be included in delegations, especially when investigations address sexual assault. .
- **Conclusions and recommendations:** Conclusions and recommendations should incorporate gender-specific analysis. This should include detailed suggestions regarding preventive and remedial measures, law reforms, redress, and steps that might be taken by the UN itself, including its technical assistance and advisory services and programmes.
- **Follow-up:** Each succeeding report should request and include information on government action and/or inaction on prior recommendations concerning human rights of women.
- **Urgent action:** All allegations regarding violations of the human rights of women should be evaluated immediately to determine whether an urgent response is required. The speed and effectiveness of such responses by all mechanisms should be regularly reviewed.

What would the Human Rights Council discuss under this agenda/sub-agenda item?

A gender perspective should be integrated into all of the Council's work i.e. special procedures, expert advice bodies, universal periodic review, complaint procedure, etc. The first time the Council addresses this agenda item, it must plan how to effectively integrate gender by taking into consideration the working methods and reporting methodology set out above.

In subsequent sessions, the Council should evaluate the work of the past years, incorporate changes based on a gender analysis of that work, and plan for the future. While evaluating the previous work, the Council should consider whether gender-specific analysis has been undertaken in its work and whether the effects of gender have been considered while examining human rights violations.