

33rd session of the Human Rights Council

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

Theme: Gender integration in the resolutions and recommendations of the Human Rights Council

Concept note (as of 14 September 2016)

- Date and venue:** **26 September 2016**, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Palais des Nations, [Room XX](#), Geneva
(will be broadcast live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)
- Objectives:** The 2016 annual discussion will focus on gender integration in the resolutions and recommendations of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. Despite resolutions (e.g. HRC res. 6/30 and GA res. 69/151) recalling the need to integrate a gender perspective work of the Council and its mechanisms, few resolutions and recommendations go beyond sex and gender-based violence or the equal representation of women to consider how gender affects the ways in which human rights are enjoyed by all individuals. The panel discussion will take stock of experts' analysis on how a gender perspective has so far been integrated in the resolutions of the Council and in the recommendations of the universal periodic review (UPR), with a view to make concrete recommendations. The panel discussion aims to:
- Recall the main elements of gender analysis and gender integration and analyse how these tools contribute to advancing different human rights agendas;
 - Assess how a gender perspective can be better integrated in the resolutions of the Human Rights Council, as well as in the recommendations of the universal periodic review;
 - Share challenges and good practices on how to implement gender-related resolutions and recommendations at national level.
- Chair:** **H.E. Mr. Choi Kyonglim**, President of the Human Rights Council
- Opening statement:** **Ms. Kate Gilmore**, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Moderator:** **Ms. Rama Mani**, Senior Research Associate, University of Oxford Centre for International Studies and Co-Founder, Rising Women Rising World
- Panellists:**
- **H.E. Mr. Boudjemâa Delmi**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Focus: implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions on the ground – how resolution 20/4 focusing on the elimination of gender-based discrimination in nationality promoted and supported change at the national level
 - **Ms. Christine Brautigam**, Director of the Intergovernmental Support Division of UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)
Focus: gender integration in the resolutions of the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and functional bodies – lessons learnt for the Human Rights Council
 - **Mr. Juan Ernesto Méndez**, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
Focus: gender integration in resolutions establishing special procedures – how a gender lens was used to fulfil the mandate on torture
 - **Ms. Aoife Hegarty**, Programme Manager, UPR Info
Focus: gender integration in UPR recommendations and how they have contributed to improving women's rights on the ground

- Mandate** At its 6th session, the Human Rights Council adopted [resolution 6/30](#) (entitled “**Integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system**”, by which it decided to incorporate into its programme of work an annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout its work and that of its mechanisms, including the evaluation of progress made and challenges experienced.
Resolution 6/30 “reiterates the need for integrating a gender perspective through using gender-inclusive language in the formulation, interpretation and implementation of human rights instruments, as well as in reports, resolutions and/or decisions of the Human Rights Council and its various mechanisms and of other human rights mechanisms”.
- Format:** After the opening statements, the moderator will introduce the topic and define the scope of the discussion. The panellists will then be given five to seven minutes each to make their initial statements, answering specific questions posed by the moderator.
- The ensuing interactive discussion, chaired by the President of the Human Rights Council, will comprise two rounds of interventions (45 minutes per round) by States and observers with comments and questions from the floor (two minutes per intervention), followed by 15 minutes for comments and replies by panellists. The interventions of States and observers may comprise questions to panellists and sharing experiences in order to stimulate a constructive debate. The debate will be followed by responses from the panellists (three minutes each) and short concluding remarks by the moderator.
- 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. Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).
- Background:** The following topics were covered during the previous Council annual discussions on gender integration:
- Integrating a gender perspective into the work of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (2008);
 - Integrating a gender perspective in the universal periodic review (2009);
 - Integrating a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council: lessons learned, shortcomings and future challenges – 2007-2010 (2010);
 - Promoting gender equality as institutional practice: from policy to action (2011);
 - Economic, social and cultural rights of women (2012);
 - Civil society’s contribution to the integration of a gender perspective in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms (2013);
 - Gender integration in the country-focused work of the Council (2014);
 - Gender parity and its contribution to gender integration in the work of the Human Rights Council (2015).
- Background documents:**
- [Human Rights Council resolution 6/30](#) (adopted by consensus on 14 December 2007)
 - [General Assembly resolution 69/151](#) (adopted by consensus on 18 December 2014)
