

UN Human Rights Council
26th session – Item 3
Resolution L.26/Rev.1

EU General Statement for adoption
Resolution on the Elimination on Violence Against Women

This statement is made on behalf of the 28 Member States of the European Union.

Mr. President,

The European Union welcomes the Canadian draft resolution on the elimination of violence against women. We welcome this year's theme on violence against women as a barrier to political and economic empowerment. In light of the discussion in New York on the post-2015 development framework, it is timely that the Human Rights Council speaks out on the necessity of inclusion of this issue in the SDGs. We particularly welcome that the draft stresses that customs, traditions or religious considerations should not be invoked by States to avoid their obligation with respect to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. We acknowledge that the resolution reiterates that violence against women is a violation, abuse or impairment of human rights and welcome the reference to the Global Summit in London to end sexual violence in conflict.

The EU considers gender equality and women's and girls' rights and empowerment as a priority for the post-2015 development agenda, not least given the important role gender equality plays in economic development. The post-2015 framework provides us with a unique opportunity to tackle the structural causes of gender inequality in a more comprehensive and transformative way. In this regard, the EU welcomes that the resolution encourages Member States to include a target for ending all forms of violence against women and girls, a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment in the post 2015- development agenda, as well as the mainstreaming of the issue into all SDGs. However, we regret that the resolution

does not mention the need for a target to eliminate harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage.

Mr. President,

Gender equality is at the heart of women's rights. We acknowledge that the main sponsor has included some of the EU proposals on this terminology in the current text. We trust that this terminology will also be used consistently in future discussions and negotiations.

Finally, we wish to express the EU's preference for stronger language in particular in the context of OP6(e), (f), (j) and (k). With regard to OP6(k), the EU would have preferred to see CSW58 language, which deals with sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Mr. President,

Once again, we wish to thank the main sponsor for their efforts and commitment on this topic and wish to reiterate that the EU stands ready to continue constructive engagement in the future.

I thank you.