Monitoring legal frameworks that address non-discrimination on the basis of sex

SDG indicator 5.1.1: Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex

Side Event at the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Co-organized by
UN Women, the World Bank Group and the OECD Development Centre

Monday, 20 March 2017 1:15pm - 2:30pm
Conference Room A, UN Headquarters, New York

Programme

Moderator:
Purna Sen, Director, Policy Division, UN Women

Panel speakers:
- Jane Mpagi, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda
- Nicole Ameline, CEDAW Committee
- Janette Amer, UN Women
- Sarah Iqbal, World Bank Group Women Business and the Law
- Keiko Nowacka, OECD Development Centre Social Institutions and Gender Index

Despite progress reforming laws addressing discrimination against women, there are numerous countries where women are still left without protection or the legal basis to claim their rights. Many women and girls continue to be affected by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, preventing the full realization of their human rights.

Strong legal frameworks must be put in place to advance gender equality in all areas. Principles of non-discrimination cannot be fully realized without “legal frameworks to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex” (SDG Indicator 5.1.1).

UN Women, in partnership with the OECD Development Centre and the World Bank Group, are working together to develop, measure and track progress on this important indicator. This side event will present the technical work underpinning this collaboration and efforts by Member States and other stakeholders in relation to SDG indicator 5.1.1 and legal frameworks that advance gender equality.
**Background:**

Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development recognises that to achieve gender equality, countries must focus their efforts in tackling the systemic barriers restricting women’s rights. This is enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 5.1 which commits to “ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere by 2030” and its SDG 5.1.1 indicator which aims to measure “whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex”. This indicator recognises the importance of creating an enabling environment for both women and men to enjoy equal rights and opportunities across all spheres of public and private life.

There has been progress in reforming laws, as mentioned in the Secretary-General’s report transmitted on the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing Plus 20 review). Efforts to incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) fully into domestic law have not been sufficient in many States. Discriminatory social norms, stereotypes, prejudice and violence remain pervasive. The Beijing Plus 20 review calls for universal ratification and full implementation of the CEDAW Convention worldwide. It also demands removal of persisting discriminatory constitutional and legislative provisions as an urgent priority, including in family, divorce and personal laws, penal codes, and laws concerning nationality, inheritance, and ownership and control over land and other resources. Building on legal reforms, priority must be given to implementing laws and monitoring their impact with these measures being accompanied by adequate resources, infrastructure and capacity-building. Priority must also be given to ensuring that all justice mechanisms, including informal, religious and customary mechanisms, uphold women’s human rights and promote gender equality. SDG Indicator 5.1.1 will be crucial in accelerating progress in these areas by tracking the removal of discriminatory laws and adoption of laws and implementation mechanisms that promote gender equality.

**Organizers:** UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The OECD Development Centre’s Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) is a cross-country measure of discriminatory social institutions, assessing discrimination in the law and in practice and how they impact on women’s rights and gender equality. The World Bank Group’s Women, Business and the Law database measures legal and regulatory barriers to women’s entrepreneurship and employment across 189 economies. It provides quantitative measures of laws and regulations that affect women’s economic opportunities.

For further information, please contact:

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