Empowerment of women and girls through access to public services—
including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

This session is an opportunity to:

- Examine the role of and challenges faced by States in delivering water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as a public service;
- Contribute to advancing the discussions on WASH services for women and girls as a key priority and determinant for women’s empowerment;
- Share best practices and lessons learned from country programmes.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Contribute to the global policy debate and emphasize the importance of access to WASH as a public service.
- Increase attention to WASH as a cross cutting issue in the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women.

PROGRAMME

Welcome and opening remarks by Moderator, Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, PR of Singapore to the United Nations in New York

KEYNOTE REMARKS BY

H.E. Ms. Bathabile Dlamini, Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women, South Africa
H.E. Ms. Marie Thérèse Abena Ondoa, Minister of Women’s Empowerment and the Family, Cameroon
Remarks by Ms. Merete Brattested, Secretary General, Department for UN and Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
Remarks by the Representative of the Permanent Mission of India to the UN

PRESENTATIONS BY PANEL

Dunja Krause, Research Officer UNRISD – The role of public policies in delivering WASH-related services
Pr V. Srinivas Chary, Professor & Center Director at the Administrative Staff College of India – She Toilets Project - Toilets for Women in Warangal: Adapting facilities to respond to women and girls’ needs
Olivia Boum, MHM Trainer & Director of Kmerpad – Women and girls’ empowerment through access to menstrual health services
Martina Nee, Programme Manager WaterAid Sweden – Female friendly and community toilets - experiences from the field

Q&A and moderated discussion
Close of session by Moderator