59th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women

The Permanent Missions of Singapore and Senegal to the United Nations are pleased to invite you to take part in a side-event they are organizing during the 59th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women on:

Unlocking multiple benefits for women and girls through sanitation and hygiene in the Post 2015 Era

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and in particular, menstrual hygiene management is an entry point to wider development outcomes in health, education, jobs, and well-being. Unfortunately, in many countries, sanitation facilities are inadequate and unsuitable for menstruating women and girls. This has meant that women and girls have no choice but to limit their cultural, educational, social and economic activities while menstruating, as well as having to deal with the stigma, silence, shame and embarrassment that surround this purely biological phenomenon. This event seeks to i) raise awareness and break the taboo surrounding sanitation and menstrual hygiene management; and ii) highlight country case studies to better understand the nature and consequences of the problem, and how to address them. It draws on the Open Work Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Secretary General’s Synthesis Report on the Post -2015 development agenda. SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11 clearly articulate the need for health, education, water and sanitation services and human settlements to be prerequisites to achieving Goal 5 – gender equality in all its forms.

The event will be a moderated panel discussion on the important links between gender equality and WASH. It will ensure the attention of financing for WASH programmes in order to fulfill the full range of rights for women and girls as a prerequisite to economic progress for individuals, societies and economies. After a presentation of key findings from the studies in Africa and Asia, participants will hear from key speakers, including practitioners, working on these issues.

The experience-sharing and presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion with Government representatives, policymakers and other practitioners, which will address the relevance of this issue in the post-2015 agenda.

Side Event Date: 13:15 – 14:30 hours, 13th March 2015
Venue: Conference Room 9, UN Headquarters, New York