

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

“Strengthened Cooperation between Global and Regional Independent Mechanisms dealing with Violence and Discrimination against Women” High Level Panel

Convened by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the OHCHR

Tuesday, 13 March 2018, 11:30 am -12:45 am

Ex-Press Bar, CSW, New York

Concept note

Introduction

In her setting vision report to the Human Rights Council in June 2016, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, called for strengthening cooperation between global and regional independent mechanisms working on violence against women and women’s rights. Since then, a number of joint activities bringing together women’s rights mechanisms have been organized, including consultations with the UN Secretary-General in the margins of the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

This initiative is based on a firm conviction that this thematic institutional cooperation will improve implementation of the existing international legal and policy framework on violence and discrimination against women and of mechanisms’ recommendations relating to observed gaps in implementation.

Encouraged by the UN Secretary-General support to this initiative different steps were taken to deepen links between independent and regional mandates on violence against women, namely several joint actions took place with the aim to enhance the implementation of global and regional instruments on violence against women and women’s rights.

Formalization of this initiative

This High Level Panel is aimed at formally launching this initiative, supported by the Government of Switzerland, aimed at institutionalizing cooperation between global and regional independent mechanisms working on violence against women and women’s rights. This panel will seek to gather visibility for this initiative; women’s rights monitoring mechanisms will present their respective mandates and vision of thematic actions towards greater cooperation with a focus on the implementation of global and regional instruments on violence against women and

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women's rights; they will share their priorities, challenges and good practices in addressing violence and discrimination against women worldwide.

Objectives of the High Level Panel

- Raise visibility of the work done by global and regional independent mandates on violence against women and women's rights and support efforts to strengthen cooperation amongst themselves;
- Elaborate strategies and recommendations to strengthen thematic cooperation and synergies between global and regional women's rights mechanisms to end violence and discrimination against women with a focus on implementation;
- Renew high level political commitment to support joint actions undertaken by international and regional mandates.

Modalities

The format of the panel will give each speaker the opportunity to make a short presentation, followed by an open debate with the audience.

List of participants

- Ms Dubravka Šimonović, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
- Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary General
- Ms Dalia Lenairte, Chair, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Ms Feride Acar, President, Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of the Council of Europe (GREVIO)
- Ms Sylvia Mesa Peluffo, President, Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI)
- Ms Soyata Maiga, Chairperson, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)
- Ms Margarette May Macaulay, Rapporteur on the Rights of Women of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (OAS - IACHR)
- Ms Liz Broderick, Member of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice (WGDAW)
- Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director