

2013 Commission on the Status of Women and the Post-2015 Agenda

Gender and Development Network background note, February 2013

GADN, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the post-2015 agenda

Reports from CSW57 will become part of the formal UN process in developing the post-2015 framework so a clear and strong message is needed. The Gender and Development Network (GADN) has produced a briefing and a report on post-2015 and will be taking these to the CSW in New York this year. We will also be seeking to collaborate with other gender networks.

The post-2015 framework represents a vital opportunity to build on current momentum and ensure gender equality remains an international priority. Any new development framework must prioritise gender equality and women's empowerment primarily because of the pervasive injustice faced by women around the world, with women disproportionately represented among the poorest and most marginalised. It must also be a central focus because of the damaging impact of this inequality on achieving other development goals, and due to the vicious cycle that poverty and gender inequality creates.

While there has been some progress over the last decade, much more needs to be done. Women continue to face discrimination across economic, social and political spheres and entrenched gender disparities remain a major driver of poverty. There is also danger of a backlash against the advances made thus far.

A strong and well-resourced standalone goal on women's empowerment and gender equality, together with the mainstreaming of transformative gender targets across the framework, is the approach most likely to address the structural inequalities which persist for women and girls and to foster the necessary political will, resources and national ownership to create sustainable and effective action on gender equality and women's rights.

GADN recommendations:

- 1) There should be a standalone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment in the post-2015 framework in order to ensure vital resources and political will, and prevent backtracking. This should prioritise the poorest and most marginalised women and girls, and reflect their own priorities.
- 2) Targets on gender equality and women's empowerment will need to be mainstreamed throughout the framework. Such targets should be transformative, providing marginalised women with a voice and ensuring that gender equality is tackled at its roots.
- 3) Gender sensitive indicators are needed that can measure inequalities within households, and can track changes in social norms.
- 4) The collection and analysis of sex disaggregated data must also be central to the new framework. Without this data it is impossible to measure progress and make informed decisions about what works for women and girls.

- 5) Consultation on the framework should occur at every level, recognising that women and men within a household may have differing views. Dedicated space and resources will be needed to enable women's organisations to continue and draw on the experiences of women whose voices are often absent from key decision-making positions.

Opportunities to use your voice

At the CSW this year there will be a number of opportunities to discuss the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post-2015 agenda. Reports from these events will be fed into the formal UN process on post-2015. This will be the main topic for the 2014 CSW.

Panel 3: Post-2015 Framework - March 7th 3-6pm

The Economic and Social Committee of the General Assembly has asked all functional commissions (including CSW) to hold events on the post-2015 framework, the results of which will be used to inform the process. There will be a discussion of key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework where participants will have a chance to make contributions. A moderator's summary will be circulated on behalf of the Bureau of CSW. This will go to ECOSOC and then to the General Assembly in September where member states will discuss how to proceed on the post-2015 processes. Civil society organisations can sign up for a slot to speak during the post-2015 panel. Note the deadline is 19 February. For more info and signup go to: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/NGO.html#oral>

Another way of influencing this process is by talking to Member States before the panel discussion, and giving them a copy of the GADN briefing or report.

Lunchtime panel on the MDGs – March 6th

There will be a lunchtime panel on 'Reviewing the MDGs' which is the 'preview theme' this year where anyone can contribute from the floor. The emphasis of this event will be the record of the MDGs on gender, although there will also be some discussion of what happens after 2015.

Roundtable lunch on Gender and Post-2015 on March 7th at the Swiss Mission

GADN members BRIDGE and IDS will be hosting a roundtable on post-2015 with a GADN representative speaking. For more information contact A.Brody@ids.ac.uk

For more information

This website will have the latest details: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>. Look out for other CSOs meetings on post 2015 too. Copies of the GADN report and briefing can be downloaded from our website, or hard copies obtained from Francesca Rhodes (see below). We will also post details of events as we hear of them - www.gadnetwork.org.uk.