Commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the CEDAW Convention

“CEDAW@40: Past achievements, ongoing challenges and future action”

Wednesday, 18 December 2019, 2:00 – 3:00 pm
Conference Room 2, UN Headquarters, New York

CONCEPT NOTE

Context:
The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the Convention), was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 1979, and since then it has been a leading force for transformative change for women’s equality and empowerment. With 189 States parties, it is the second most ratified international human rights treaty and the most comprehensive international instrument to protect women’s human rights. To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Convention, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will convene a side event in New York to take stock of progress achieved over the past 40 years, identify ongoing gaps and challenges, and most importantly, define concrete action to close the gaps. The event is jointly organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), and co-sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago and the Permanent Mission of Nigeria.

Aims and objectives:

1) Take stock of progress achieved in implementing the Convention, including sharing of good practices in the ways the Convention has changed women’s lives.
2) Identify ongoing gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Convention and the realization of women’s human rights, and concrete actions needed to address those gaps.
3) Renew commitments by all stakeholders to the Convention and its critical role in the achievement of gender equality and the implementation of the Cairo and Beijing Platforms for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals.
4) Strengthen engagement of stakeholders, including civil society organizations and the United Nations system, in supporting the implementation and monitoring of the Convention.

Moderator:

- Mr. Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, OHCHR New York
Speakers:

Opening remarks
- President of the General Assembly (TBC)

Panel discussion
- Ms. Bandana Rana, Vice-Chair of CEDAW
- H.E. Ms. Pennelope Beckles, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations
- Dame Pauline Tallen, Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Nigeria
- Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA
- Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women
- Ms. Krishanti Dharmaraj, Executive Director of the Center for Women’s Global Leadership

Closing remarks
- Mr. Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, OHCHR New York

Format:
The opening remarks and presentations by panellists will be followed by an interactive discussion.