





February in Baku, Azerbaijan, to provide further inputs. The report will be available in late February, prior to the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The panel discussion should address opportunities and challenges in linking the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. Panelists and participants in the discussion should present examples of actions that have led or could lead to greater synergies in implementation and achievement of goals. There should be a strong focus on enhancing consultation with and participation of a broader range of stakeholders in policy-making, implementation, monitoring and advocacy.

#### a. Policy issues

The discussion surrounding gender equality and the empowerment of women has focused to a large extent on MDG 3, and on its associated targets and indicators and the linkages to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action are not made clear. The gender perspectives of the other internationally agreed development goals, and the gender perspectives contained in the other areas of attention of the Millennium Declaration, in particular peace and security, democracy and good governance, and their relevance to the implementation of the Platform for Action, have not been consistently addressed. Participants could provide information on how the enhanced mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all areas of the Millennium Declaration, on the basis of the commitments made in the Platform for Action, might advance full implementation.

In the Millennium Declaration, Governments committed themselves to spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development<sup>8</sup>. Although there is a growing understanding of the importance of a rights-based approach in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, the recognition of linkages with international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) has been limited. Participants could indicate how a rights-based approach can be enhanced in national implementation efforts.

In their advocacy efforts, stakeholders have recognized that the goals contained in the Millennium Declaration and the targets and indicators associated with the internationally agreed goals can be efficiently used to promote the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome document of the special session, and vice-versa. Participants could provide concrete examples of how recognizing and building on synergies can strengthen the future implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action at national, regional and international level.

#### b. Implementation and monitoring

Linking the systematic, consistent and regular monitoring of the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Platform for Action is critical. Challenges identified included a lack of capacity, statistics and resources, as well as insufficient targets and indicators. Participants could provide good practice examples of how integrated monitoring processes that ensure attention to linking implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, have led to enhanced progress at national level. Examples could be provided on enhancing synergies, for example through improved collection and use of sex-

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<sup>8</sup> A/RES/55/2, para 24

**disaggregated statistics and gender-specific data, in accordance with recommendations in the Platform for Action, in the preparation of national MDG reports, or linking the Platform for Action to**