

Commission on the Status of Women

equality advocates, demonstrating accountab

6 February 2012

(AWID) points to a number of positive changes, as well as new and persistent challenges, including that for many women's organizations with relatively small budgets and limited access to international funders, available funding remains limited and at times inaccessible.

Increasing financing for gender equality is essential for delivering results for women and girls. Despite the positive trends that have been noted in some countries with sector ministries allocating a share of their budgets towards addressing gender equality priorities in their respective sectors, increases in budgets for women's machineries and other efforts, inequalities persist and demonstrate that current levels of financing for gender equality remain inadequate. To achieve equitable and sustainable development results, a stronger response to the issue of financing for gender equality is needed as mentioned in the outcome document of the 2010 Millennium Summit, "investment in gender equality in all sectors and at central and local government levels is necessary for accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)." This and the other issues outlined above should be the focus of the review by the Commission on the Status of Women, and thus enhance accountability of stakeholders for action taken to implement previous commitments.

IV. Format of the interactive dialogue

This year for the first time, two panels will be organized to allow for a thorough review of progress in implementing the 2008 agreed conclusions. Each panel will last three hours. The first panel will be held from 10am to 1pm and the second panel from 3pm to 6pm.

Each panel will begin with presentations of five case studies (of not more than 10 minutes each) demonstrating progress in implementing the agreed conclusions. Member States, entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations will participate in the ensuing dialogue, and are encouraged to share their experiences in implementing the agreed conclusions, highlighting achievements, gaps and challenges, as well as good practices and lessons learned. Interventions from the floor will be limited to three minutes.

This panel will conclude with comments and observations by a discussant who will offer a critical analysis of stakeholders' progress; reflections on the need for greater policy coherence; and presentation of policy options for accelerating the implementation of the 2008 agreed conclusions.

Panel 2

2. What has been the impact of some of these measures in terms of improving women's access to services at sector and local level?
3. Have national machineries for gender equality and gender equality advocates acquired a stronger role in decision making around financing? What measurable impact has their strengthened participation had?
4. What are some good practices and lessons learned in tracking financing for gender equality both by governments and by multilateral organizations?
5. What are the remaining gaps and key challenges constraining efforts towards enhancing financing for gender equality?
6. What measures have been implemented/are being implemented to ensure greater coherence between macroeconomic policies (debt, aid, trade, labour and fiscal policies) with poverty reduction strategies and gender equality commitments?
7. What effective policy options for enhancing financing for gender equality could be promoted in a context of multiple crises?