



Watching targets and performance of MDGs for women and girls



58th Commission on Status of Women
(10-21 March 2014)

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Purpose

The National Gender and Equality Commission with financial support from the government of Kenya, the government of Finland and Sweden through the Kenya United Nations Development Program and Ford Foundation participated in the 58th session of Commission on Status of Women, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The commission has a core mandate of promoting gender equality and freedom from discrimination among all Kenyans with special focus to women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, youth and minority and marginalized groups and communities in all spheres of life, at national and county governments, and in private sector laws, rules and regulations and administrative guidelines. The commission is the principal state organ responsible for monitoring compliance of state with international and regional treaties and conventions Kenya is signatory to. Kenya is a member state to the commission on status of women and therefore the commission participates in the 58th session to join the national government delegation in reporting the performance and progress the country has made in the priority theme: **Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls**.

Further, the commission will be responsible for the monitoring the implementation of the agreed concluding observations of the 58th session and follow up to the agreed review theme identified as: Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (agreed conclusions from the fifty-fifth session) and emerging issue identified as: Women's access to productive resources.

Every year, representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attend the session. In the 58th session, the commission was represented by Commissioner Winfred Lichuma as head of NGENC delegation and panelist in Government of Kenya side events, Commissioner Simon Ndubai, Commissioner Gumato Yattani, Prof Rose Odhiambo, and Mr. Paul Kuria. Representatives of the commission also spent some of their time in consolidating networks and identification of opportunities at regional and international levels. This brief presents an account of the participation of the representative of the commission in various themes and summary of critical observations for programming. The delegation travelled between 8th and 22nd March 2014.

More than 6000 representatives from 860 civil society organizations registered for CSW58. Nearly 135 events were organized by UN agencies at UN Headquarters in New York, alongside the official meetings of the Commission, as well as more than 300 parallel events hosted by the NGO community close to the UN premises.

Background to CSW

The Commission on the Status of Women first met at Lake Success, New York, in February 1947, soon after the founding of the United Nations. All 15 government representatives were women. From its inception, the Commission was supported by a unit of the United Nations that later became the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) in the UN Secretariat. The CSW forged a close relationship with non-governmental organizations, with those in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) invited to participate as observers.

From 1947 to 1962, the Commission focused on setting standards and formulating international conventions to change discriminatory legislation and foster global awareness of women's issues. In contributing to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the CSW successfully argued against references to "men" as a synonym for humanity, and succeeded in introducing new, more inclusive language. The

Commission drafted the early international conventions on women's rights, such as the 1953 Convention on the Political Rights of Women, which was the first international law instrument to recognize and protect the political rights of women; and the first international agreements on women's rights in marriage, namely the 1957 Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, and the 1962 Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages. The Commission also contributed to the work of UN offices, such as the International Labour Organization's 1951 Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, which enshrined the principle of equal pay for equal work.

The legally binding Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), also drafted by the Commission, followed in 1979. In 1999, the Optional Protocol to the convention introduced the right of petition for women victims of discrimination. In 1972, to mark its 25th anniversary, the Commission recommended that 1975 be designated International Women's Year—an idea endorsed by the General Assembly to draw attention to women's equality with men and to their contributions to development and peace. The year was marked by holding the First World Conference on Women in Mexico City, followed by the 1976–1985 UN Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Additional world conferences took place in Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in 1985. New UN offices dedicated to women were established, in particular the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

In 1987, as part of follow-up to the Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi, the Commission took the lead in coordinating and promoting the UN system's work on economic and social issues for women's empowerment. Its efforts shifted to promoting women's issues as cross-cutting and part of the mainstream, rather than as separate concerns. In the same period, the Commission helped bring violence against women to the forefront of international debates for the first time. These efforts resulted in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted by the General Assembly in 1993 and appointment in 1994, of an UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The Commission served as the preparatory body for the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, which adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. An additional UN office for the promotion of gender equality was established: the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI). In 2011, the four parts of the UN system mentioned on this page—DAW, INSTRAW, OSAGI and UNIFEM—merged to become UN Women, now the Secretariat of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Mapping out activities

On 10th March, all individuals forming part of the Kenya delegation met in Kenya Head of UN Mission in New York Office to collect paper work to facilitate processing of gate passes to the conference rooms and general assembly. The Kenya delegation was represented by the following agencies: The National Assembly, the Senate, NGEK, KEWOPA, Office of budget controller, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, UNFPA-Kenya, Commission on administration of justice, non-state actors, members of the Kenya mission office and Kenya permanent representative in UN. An introductory meeting was also held in Kenya consular office to brief the delegation about the 58th sessions, link them to the help desk, and review the time table of the session to allocate individuals responsibility of attending to specific themes. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning provided the secretariat.

Key outcome: There is need for the commission and other independent offices in Africa to review the accreditation process of oversight bodies and agencies in future sessions. The establishment of independent agencies and growing demand for such agencies to attend UN sessions is a new phenomenon whose processes and procedures may require amendment to meet this demand and responsibility.

The Opening

The opening sessions begun with many thanks to the Chair, Ambassador Libran Cabactulan of the Philippines and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for their leadership. A powerful opening statement from the UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka emphasized how MDGs have contributed to galvanizing action and resources for gender equality and women's empowerment. The director discussed the building up to Beijing+20 efforts. UN Women has launched the **He for She** campaign so that men and boys can raise their voices, take a stand and be on the right side of history. She urged men and boys to come out and embrace the campaign as well as take action in their own spaces. The campaign is well underway and has reached more than 18 million people! She further mentioned the critical targets to attaining gender equality:

- ✓ **Freedom from violence for women and girls** – The levels of violence against women has reached alarming promotion with one in three women experiencing some physical or sexual violence worldwide.
- ✓ **Equality in capabilities** – Access to opportunities and resources. This means recognizing, reducing and redistributing the burden of unpaid care work; ensuring equal access to assets and resources such as education, land and finance; equal pay and working conditions; and guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- ✓ **Equality in agency, voice, participation and leadership** across the full range of decision-making arenas in public and private institutions.

These targets are summarized under the **SHE imperative**.

S safety and security of women and girls from all forms of violence.

H her human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, education, land rights, equal pay, recognition of unpaid care and all the rights and opportunities to which she is entitled.

E equality and empowered decision-making and full leadership and participation in all spheres of life.

Women in Peace and conflict management

Various side and parallel events focused on the increased role of women in peace and conflict management. Norway for example facilitated a discussion forum on relationship between peace and development taking cognizance of the changing 'definitions' and type of wars. The discussants noted the complexity of military wars and called for creative transformative techniques of increasing women's role in management of conflict given that the numbers of wars have decreased and number of injuries has increased over years. The discussants also emphasized the role of women in negotiating for peace and participation in drafting policies for ending wars.



The themes on women and peace made multiple recommendations for the post 2015 MDG agenda with emphasis that there cannot be peace without security, understanding different ways women and girls define security and peace. A case study of conflict in Southern Sudan and how it has impacted differently to men and women by their varying ages illustrated the essence of greater involvement of women in peace restoration programs.

The discussants in various platforms on peace and women agenda called for accelerated implementation of the UNSCR 1325 with assurance participation of women at the community level. The Joan B. Kroc Institute for peace and justice renewed its commitment to document stories and best practices of four international women leaders who are involved in human rights and peacemaking efforts in their home countries. In 2014 the program runs between September 20 and November 26 and will cover accommodation at the University of San Diego, and living stipend

Taking leadership in fulfilling MDGs

The first ladies of Africa with support from the US doctors of Africa, the Bush Institute, International Association of Applied Psychology, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, World Council for the



Physiotherapy and the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations have implemented a cross Africa high impact programs for advancing MDGs on women and girls. Most successful initiatives occurred in Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Burundi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, and Tanzania. The project focused on HIV/AIDS, Poverty, education, employment and empowerment of women and girls, maternal child health under the UN secretary General umbrella program 'Every Woman Every Child'. The first ladies of Africa have demonstrated their abilities as champions of change, influential role model, and advocates of

community wellbeing, bridges for peace and development and builders of social contracts. Music by Sheima (soloist and hunter college elementary school Chorale and Tomoko Shibata with song towers of light were employed to deliver the message).

Faith community and leadership in addressing SGBV

Multiple parallel events focusing on role of the faith community in attainment of MDG on women and girls with particular focus on GBV were organized. The events empathized on the rights of women in Muslim communities and the role of Islamic religion in freezing demand and justification for killings for honor, early

marriages, wife beating, female genital mutilation and denial for education among girls. Advocacy for end of SGBV has attracted bold human rights activists especially in the Muslim communities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Egypt and demands for UN to consider supporting leadership to support women rights programs. The theme further called for a refined role faith leadership in defining power relationship between men and women and challenged scholars to apply theological inputs in the equation of gender empowerment to evaluate empowerment outcome. A case study based on Afghanistan was used to illustrate how strengthening of judicial system by increasing women lawyers actively involved in litigation and judicial process is correlated with increasing number of women with access to justice.

Education and maternal child health

The theme assessed the intersection between human rights, justice and sustainable development. The discussions forums observed that though the globe has made significant strides in reducing preventable maternal health deaths, a holistic approach to improving maternal health is critical. Women continue to face structural and cultural barriers to maternal health care that impede their physical health and ability to receive education, engage in meaningful work and lead productive lives. Primary education for all especially girls was singled out as a solid foundation to preparing women and girls to healthy meaningful adolescents and adult lives. Mental health particularly depressions occurring after delivery is another factor barring women from attaining their highest potential and few countries have put mechanisms in place to address mental health among women despite acknowledgement that all human beings are reasonably at risk of mental depression. Taiwan is one of the few countries with good practice on management of mental health among women. Taiwan has a progressive policy on mental health that incorporates a community outreach program to educate women about depression, causes and prevention, and treatment options available. A justice focused response to inequalities in maternal health policies and outcomes is therefore paramount.

Engaging men in gender equality models

The discussion platform argued that it is possible to preach without practicing gender equality if men are not involved. The panelists analyzed best practices across the world on the impact programs involving men have yielded in their efforts to promoting gender equality. In South Africa for example two out of three children grow up without the support of a father figure due to poverty and labor migration. The country is increasing number of fatherhood groups with higher involvement of fathers during pregnancy and delivery to build stronger and more equitable relationships. Through a campaign 'you are my father', more families have benefited from positive energy from the father figure. In Brazil, a campaign dubbed shameless (Sem Vergonha) seeks to redefine shameless to move from misbehaving to being comfortable the way one is. The campaign seeks to break down the barriers that limit sexual health of young persons and smash gender stereotypes as such hinder open communications about sex and sexuality and hamper condom use among young people. In Indonesia male celebrities are featured taking leadership in the family having 'me time'. The celebrity (Lukman Sardi) is featured with the spouse demonstrating how they divide care for their children. In Rwanda, the dolls for dad program seeks to expose to 2000 father figures to use life-size baby dolls to learn how to properly hold, bath and care for their newborn babies to support maternal child health initiatives. The fathers also learn how to support their partners during pregnancy, prevent violence in family and benefits of a more equitable distribution of housework and child care.

Natural fertility: Contributions to Gender equality and environmental sustainability

There has been a growing global call for exposure of girls and women to basic knowledge about their fertility and awareness of the hormonal changes in their bodies and making use of such knowledge to empower women about their reproductive health. The education program often construed as 'catholic program' provides women and adolescent girls with immense forms of information and there is a renewed call to include this piece of education in the formal sector as well as in the informal education sector.

Creativity in ending gender based violence

Nearly all member states represented in the 58th session of the CSW indicated that SGBV as a critical factor deterring accelerated attainment of gender equality and a factor undermine women empowerment. SGBV was not fully addressed in the MDGs and member states have already proposed the need to have major and specific indicators on SGBV. Different countries have used different approaches to address SGBV. Most recently countries have employed creative arts, media, technology and music to influence support for deterring SGBV. India for example has a campaign branded 'ring the bell'.

Kenya: Target specific indicator on women empowerment

The chair of NGEC, The cabinet secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, representative of Ministry of Education and chairperson of the Anti- Female Genital Mutilation Board under moderation of the deputy permanent representative in UN at New York, lead a high level panel of discussion on the progress Kenya has made in attaining MDGs highlighting challenges and lessons learnt in implementing MDGs for women and girls. While the country has achieved a lot within the past two decades, the country has faced numerous challenges including the increased burden from refugees from Sudan and Somali, insecurity in the northern region and of late in the capital from external terrorism, and global economic crush. However, in the past six months, the government has performed exemplary well in empowerment programs for women marked by enacting an affirmative policy to set aside 30% of the government annual procurement to women and youth. The preferential procurement coupled with micro-credit facilities through *Uwezo* and women and youth enterprise funds among other public-private sector scholarship programs is expected to yield significant broad sweeping outcomes in the next three years. NGEC will monitor the implementation of the affirmative policies and legislations to guard and increase gains in gender equality on power representation, parity in all levels of education, and in paid employment.

Building the momentum towards translation of gender equality to quality leadership

Does placing many women in the decision making positions and in political positions translate into closing the gender gaps? Is the number of women in decision making positions proportionate to quality leadership? Kenya Women Parliamentarian Association (KEWOPA) engaged delegates from the member states into

insightful dialogue about strategies of ensuring women in decision-making positions deliver high quality leadership and mentorship to younger women to sustain the momentum that will translate into closing gender gaps in power relations and in economic and social development. The side event held in ECOSOC building attracted speakers from Nepal and Zimbabwe. The delegates challenged KEWOPA to establish platforms through which all elected and nominated women can converge to share experiences and map out strategies of gaining more influence in decisions made at county and national government. Further, the Kenya government was requested to reconsider establishment of a gender ministry responsible for welfare of women, children and persons with disabilities. Many countries in Africa and in mature democracies have many lessons to share on formation of governments with and without the ministry of gender e.g. Republic of South Africa.

Multi-country Public Private Partnership towards accelerating women empowerment

Multiple side and parallel events were conducted to promote best demonstrable practices for empowering women through a strong well integrated private –public partnership. South Africa government through

Ministries of Trade, Women Affairs, Commission of gender equality, Coca-Cola South Africa and Nigeria Ministry of Minerals in partnership with non-state actors presented a panel discussion around offering women business skills through focused personalized trainings to provide women with essential skills for modeling businesses.



South Africa led side event on public private multi-country partnership on women empowerment

Poor women in South Africa have grown their businesses from simple small scale businesses to large enterprises with added value products with markets in and out of South Africa. A group of women for example have improved their livelihood through growing *Muringa* -a herb used to produce medicines and nutrients responsible for the management of diabetes and high blood pressure related illnesses. The partnership is being extended to collaboration with Nigeria government to eliminate poverty among women in both countries. The programs seeks to remove the vicious poverty dependency model of offering social grants and other poverty cushion programs to fully sustainable mechanism of raising the wealth index of women to irreversible levels.

Sustainable development goals post 2015

Representatives in the 58th sessions spent a significant amount of time discussing plans post 2015 to ensure consolidation of gains and building a momentum to define sustainable goals for post 2015. Kenya is calling for stand-alone gender equality goals and systematic mainstreaming of gender issues in all other goals. Some partners have called for a supportive results framework to the post 2015 goals. Some partners advocated for the need to have gender experts in decision making and investing in molding the next generation of women champions. This can be through scholarships beyond formal education but to support skills on public speaking and negotiations. Some representatives have cautioned on the need to balance frameworks and indicators, how to deal with rights, mechanisms for employing right based approaches. Civil societies are encouraged to raise resources and carry out advocacy with global agenda. A panel discussion held on March 21st reviewed the definition and content of sustainable development. Women and family were included as critical determinants of sustainable development. In the discourse, the panelist argues that family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the state. The stability and cohesiveness of communities and societies largely rest on the strength of the family. Like gender equality, the family is a cross-cutting issue that impacts all of the MDGs and therefore merits equal attention and focus. The majority of the Millennium Development targets especially those relating to the education of children and reduction of poverty and maternal mortality, are difficult to attain unless the strategies to achieve them focus on the family. The family can contribute to:- eradicating poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; and combating HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases. The family creates the Human Capital that drives development. Attitudes, habits and skills are largely shaped within family as a child develops. How well children acquire these skills and attributes will determine the quality of human capital that is available for a nation's economic and social development. From these discussions member states were urged to:

- ✓ Take into account, the role of the family as a contributor to sustainable development and strengthen family policy development in their ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals as their achievement depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to the same.
- ✓ Establish national procedures to analyze the impact of laws, policies and programs on family stability and autonomy. Laws, policies and programs often target individuals rather than families, despite evidence that a family-centered and family- focused approach yields better results.
- ✓ Mainstream family perspective in the sustainable development goals by establishing measurable family- focused targets, identifying and promoting evidence-based/ family- based approaches for achieving them.
- ✓ Shift the rhetoric from merely appreciating families to prioritizing them as worthy investment and partnership.

Oversight of governments through independent institutions: A growing demand

Over the past decade, Africa has made significant stride in expanding democratic space through establishment of independent offices and agencies to monitor the governments on their transparency and accountability in delivery of governance services and facilities. Such agencies are largely established through a constitutional or legal framework. In 2011, Kenya established the National Gender and Equality Commission through an Act of parliament and agency that is much equivalent to the Commission of Gender Equality of South Africa and very close to gender equality monitoring unit of Rwanda and Equal Opportunities Commission of Uganda. Similar

institutions are in process of being developed in Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone and Mozambique. The agencies are structured similarly to constitutional agencies in mature democracies such as in Latin America, Europe and USA. The machinery for promoting and monitoring gender equality and empowerment of women are formed separately from the National Human Rights Institutions. The commissions on gender equality provide overall oversight, monitoring and auditing of both state and non-state actors in delivery of gender equality. These agencies need to participate in the CSW and other international reporting forum as independent agencies and as of now there is no mechanism through which these agencies can be accredited directly and independently from the host ministries and government of the day.



Representatives from NGEN (Kenya) and CGE (South Africa) in a brainstorming meeting

NGEN and CGE of Kenya and South Africa respectively held a meeting on 14th March 2014 in New York ECOSOC building and resolved to seek the guidance of UNWomen, executive director, undersecretary on the most feasible ways through which participation of the commissions on gender equality can be enhanced at regional and international level. Representatives of the two commissions met with the UNWomen Executive director in her offices on 17th March 2014 and agreed on the following:



From left Ms Patricia Nozipho Bardill (acting chief of staff, UNWomen), Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (executive director, undersecretary general UNWomen), Mr Nicholas Burniat, (specialist to the executive director, undersecretary general UNWomen) with members of the NGEN (Kenya) and CGE (South Africa) at UNWomen Headquarters, newsroom

- a) UNwomen will take leadership in identification of the interim and long term mechanisms through which commissions on gender equality can participate independently in the CSW and other international reporting platforms. UN Women will offer some interim measures by end of April 2014.
- b) UNwomen will explore opportunities through which ECOSOC member states can discuss the participation and contributions of the commissions on gender equality to CSW and other international reporting platform. UNWOMEN will also explore ways through which expertise from the commissions can be utilized in the various technical working committees of the international reporting mechanisms
- c) UNwomen is able to work closely with the commissions on gender equality including partnering in selected interventions
- d) UNwomen will take leadership in defining the role of the commissions on gender equality post 2015 goals.

These issues distill to a common observation; ***‘ that member states and signatory countries with oversight institutions such as Kenya need to expand the space on reporting to ensure the oversight institutions review the country report before hand and issue compliance note to country’s performance’.***

Concluding observations

No country has achieved gender equality in human development, irrespective of the dimensions that one looks at. In 2010, the Human Development Report (HDR) introduced the Gender Inequality Index to highlight how limited attention to key issues like maternal deaths, adolescent births and limited female participation in higher education, the labour market and political decision-making strangle the development potential of countries. In the 2014 HDR, the Human Development Report Office will introduce a sex-disaggregated Human Development Index (HDI) to provide evidence needed to promote gender equality in basic human capabilities. There is need for the gender equality community to rethink on scope and content, dimensions and measurability as well as necessary resources and political capital required to close gender gaps through sustainable development goals post 2015.

Detailed concluding observations are available

<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/58/CSW58-agreedconclusions-advanceduneditedversion.pdf>

Table 1 highlights the key implications to the country and NGEC on some of the conclusions

Observations	Efforts this far and future need
The Commission is concerned that several critical issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women were not adequately addressed by the Millennium Development Goals such as, inter alia: violence against women and girls; child, early and forced marriage; women’s and girls’ disproportionate share of unpaid work, particularly unpaid care work; women’s access to decent work, the gender wage gap, employment in the informal sector, low paid and gender-stereotyped work such as domestic and care work; women’s equal access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources including land, energy and	NGEC with other stakeholders is undertaking numerous activities including inquiry on teenage pregnancies to eliminate harmful practices and monitor performance of institutions responsible for abandonment or enforcement of laws and policies on reduction of harmful practices. The commission is also involved in the ICPD program and will advocate for use of most encompassing language to speak to women universal rights

<p>fuel, and women’s inheritance rights; women’s sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences; universal health coverage; non-communicable diseases; accountability for violations of human rights of</p>	
<p>The Commission recognizes that progress on the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals for women and girls has been held back due to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women’s and girls’ capabilities, and growing gaps in equality of opportunity, discriminatory laws, policies, social norms, attitudes, harmful customary and contemporary practices and gender stereotypes.</p>	<p>The commission is monitoring the implementation of the TJRC report as it related to historical injustices among women, implementation of the affirmative actions and tracking of laws and policies to ensure they explicitly address gender gaps and power inequities. The commission is taking leadership in the development of the framework towards realization of two-thirds gender principle by 2015 at national levels</p>
<p>The Commission is also concerned that countries affected by natural disasters are less likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and further notes that women and girls are disproportionately affected by natural disasters. It further recognizes that women play a vital role in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, including rehabilitation and reconstruction, and the need to enhance women’s access, capacities and opportunities to effectively and equally participate in the prevention and preparedness efforts and response to disasters.</p>	<p>The commission is the host to the secretariat of the Africa’s gender and climate change working group. The commission is also in the secretariat developing and advocating for the adoption of the Kenya National Action Plan for women and peace</p>
<p>Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a particular matter of priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and their respective Optional Protocols, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the relevant treaty; and implement them fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies;</p>	<p>Kenya to consider the optional protocol to allow individuals violated to access the CEDAW committee after exhausting domestic remedy. NGEK will take leadership to facilitate this process</p>
<p>Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls through: the development, where needed, adoption and accelerated and effective implementation and monitoring of laws and comprehensive policy measures; the removal, where they exist, of discriminatory provisions in legal frameworks including punitive provisions; and setting up legal, policy, administrative and other comprehensive measures including temporary special measures as appropriate to ensure women’s and girls’ equal and effective access to justice and accountability for violations of human rights of women and girls;</p>	<p>Government having established NGEK should allocate enough resources to monitor the two-thirds gender rule and the principle must be supported as an affirmative action. NGEK is responsible for recommending a framework to attain the principle at national level as per a supreme court ruling.</p>
<p>Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, through multi-sectoral and coordinated approaches to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and exercise due diligence,</p>	<p>NGEK in partnership with stakeholders is developing a data base to collate information at output level for evidence-based programming to influence outcomes and</p>

<p>investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and end impunity, and provide protection as well as universal access to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society and, bearing in mind the importance for all women and girls to live free from violence, to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation;</p>	<p>impact measured through population and institutional based studies</p>
<p>Ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks, and strengthening of health systems, that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, commodities, information and education, including, inter alia, safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination, and violence;</p>	<p>NGEC is participating in ICPD high level discussions. The commission is spearheading development of the ECOSOC standards and associated guidelines</p>
<p>Encourage partnerships for global health to support Member States in carrying out their responsibilities, including in moving towards universal health coverage, which implies that all people, including women and girls, have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services, and vaccines, needed and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, especially through the promotion of primary health care, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized segments of the population, and calls upon Member States to strengthen and improve the quality of health systems in this regard;</p>	
<p>Promote and protect women's and girls' right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination throughout their lifecycle at all levels and promote equal and inclusive access to quality early childhood, primary, secondary and postsecondary education, non-formal</p>	<p>NGEC is engineering interventions in the education sector</p>

<p>education, catch-up and adult literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, skills development and vocational training and human rights education and training, with specific attention to: eliminating gender disparities at all levels of education by increasing the retention, transition and completion rates of women and girls; improving the quality of education and learning outcomes; eliminating gender stereotypes in the curriculum; mainstreaming a gender perspective into education and training programmes, including science and technology; eradicating female illiteracy and supporting school-to-work transition through skills development to enable their active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making;</p>	
<p>Adopt targeted measures to ensure girls' safety and an environment free from sexual harassment in the school and in the commute to school including by improving transportation, strengthening infrastructure by providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and other safe environments, conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities; establishing and enforcing penalties for all forms of violence and harassment against girls;</p>	<p>NGEC is undertaking a public inquiry on teenage pregnancy expected to strengthen criminal law in reducing incidences of SGBV.</p> <p>NGEC has commissioned an SGBV county costing study to estimate resources required by counties to reduce SGBV. The guidelines will be disseminated in 2014/15 fiscal year and monitoring of their use commence in 2015/2016 fiscal year</p>
<p>Promote the right to education by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children and through the progressive introduction of subsidized education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action to contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families and children who become heads of households;</p>	
<p>Develop and implement educational programmes and teaching materials, including comprehensive evidence-based education for human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with the appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the involvement of children, adolescents, youth and communities, and in coordination with women's, youth and specialized non-governmental organizations, in order to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, to eliminate prejudices and to promote and build informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills for the development of respectful relationships</p>	
<p>With the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education, that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls' physical and</p>	

mental health and well-being, including the elimination of discrimination and violence against girls;	
Encourage States and relevant civil society groups to empower women and girls by supporting programs that facilitate participation through public and private investment in agriculture aiming to achieve food security and nutrition;	The commission is implementing a private sector based initiative, the first of its own kind in Kenya, to entrench principles of equality and inclusion in the business sector
Recognize, resource, and support programmes that advance gender equality and women's rights in all areas of economic activities including fisheries and aquaculture to address food security and nutrition, and meaningfully facilitate women's contributions to small scale and artisan fisheries and aquaculture, commercial fisheries, oceans and seas use and care;	
Ensure non-discriminatory access for women of all ages to gender-responsive, universally accessible, available, affordable, sustainable, and high quality services and infrastructure, including health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, transport, energy, housing, agricultural technology, financial and legal services, and information and communication technologies;	The commission is spearheading development of the ECOSOC standards and associated guidelines
Promote universal social protection across the lifecycle, including for older women, that gives women and girls protection against risks and vulnerabilities and promotes their social inclusion and full enjoyment of all human rights;	Commission has undertaken audits of social safety programs for elderly persons and proposed investment for ageing in county integrated development and investment plans
Recognize that caregiving is a critical societal function and therefore emphasize the need to value, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work by prioritizing social protection policies, including accessible and affordable social services, including care services for children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and persons living with HIV and AIDS, and all others in need of care; the development of infrastructure including access to environmentally sound time-and-energy-saving technologies; employment policies, including family friendly policies with maternity and paternity leave and benefits; promote the equal sharing of responsibilities and chores between men and women in care giving and domestic work to reduce the domestic work burden of women and girls and to change the attitudes that reinforce the division of labour based on gender;	<p>The commission is implemented a private sector based initiative to entrench principles of equality and inclusion in the business sector</p> <p>Commission has undertaken audits of social safety programs for elderly persons and proposed investment for ageing in county integrated development and investment plans</p>
Strengthen the role of women in formal and informal sectors, including in cross-border trade and agriculture, put in place measures needed to improve women's access to markets and productive resources, and make markets safe for women including those living in rural areas, and thereby ensure that women- and men-owned businesses and farms have equal opportunities in markets;	The commission is the host to the secretariat of the Africa's gender and climate change working group. The platform provides the commission with opportunities to advance women empowerment issues beyond African region. The commission is implementing an empowerment capacity development program for women, youth and persons with disabilities from the informal sector
Prioritize and mainstream gender equality perspectives in all social, economic and environmental policies and programs to implement the Millennium Development Goals, including	NGEC has opportunity to address this observations through coordination and mainstreaming functions as per NGEC Act

<p>national development policies and strategies to eradicate poverty, and gender-responsive budgeting and public expenditure allocation processes; establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms for gender mainstreaming at local, national and regional levels, promote and ensure the implementation of national legal frameworks and the coordination between branches of government to ensure gender equality;</p>	<p>2011</p>
<p>Strengthen and support the contributions of rural women to the agricultural sector and to enhancing agricultural and rural development, including small-scale farming, and ensure that women have equal access to agricultural technologies, through investments and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, and innovation in small scale agricultural production and distribution; and address the existing gaps on and barriers to trading their agricultural products in local, regional and international markets;</p>	<p>The commission is the host to the secretariat of the Africa's gender and climate change working group. The platform provides the commission with opportunities to advance women empowerment issues beyond African region.</p>
<p>Strengthen international cooperation, including the role of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and invites all Member States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation focusing on shared development priorities with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector, while noting that national ownership and leadership in this regard are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;</p>	<p>The commission will seek more bilateral and multilateral relationships with other commissions and independent offices in Africa, Latin America, Europe and USA. This far the commission has a functional bilateral relations guided through an MOU with Commission on Gender Equality of Republic of South Africa and is pursuing to formalize the partnership with Equal Opportunities Commission of Uganda</p>
<p>Support and institutionalize a gender-sensitive approach to public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality and women's empowerment, and ensure all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation;</p>	<p>The commission through multi-sectoral stakeholders has completed Gender Responsive Guidelines. The guidelines will assume first use in the 2014/2015 fiscal year in Program Based Budgeting</p>
<p>Improve systematic and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant variables at national level, through appropriate financial and technical support and capacity building, while recognizing the need for international cooperation in this regard;</p>	<p>These observations demonstrate opportunities for NGEC to scale up its monitoring role .</p>
<p>Collect regularly and disseminate statistics on the minimum set of gender indicators and the core set of violence against women indicators adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2013;</p>	<p>NGEC will approach the United Nations Statistical Commission to obtain policy and technical guidance on development of a comprehensive robust data base on gender equality.</p>
<p>Continue to develop and enhance standards and methodologies, for use at national and international levels, to improve data, inter alia, on women's poverty, income distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, and women's participation at all levels of decision-</p>	

making, including to monitor progress on the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;	
Develop and strengthen national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess policies and programmes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls and promote the sharing of best practices;	
Take measures to ensure women’s full, equal and effective participation in all fields and leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors through policies and actions such as temporary special measures, as appropriate, and by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks;	<p>The commission is implementing a private sector based initiative, the first of its own kind in Kenya, to entrench principles of equality and inclusion in the business sector</p> <p>NGEC has included key outcome based indicators in the performance contracting frameworks for the public institutions and will be undertaking routine monitoring and analysis on the levels and trends of gender mainstreaming in all government agencies, ministries and department and issue status reports.</p>

A Additional opportunities for NGEC

- a) Work closely with UNWOMEN and other commissions in Africa to establish mechanism through which independent constitutional agencies can participate in the technical working groups and reporting process of the international conventions and treaties independently from the gender equality implementation machinery
- b) Take leadership in following through with UNWOMEN on funding opportunities for gender equality and inclusion commissions with emphasis to financing of the first conventions of gender equality commissions in Africa
- c) Work closely with national assembly and senate to define the opportunities for the country if a stand alone ministry of gender and women affairs were established. This will involving consulting other African countries that have in one time run a standalone ministry for gender and in other times run the government without such a ministry. Kenya is one of the very few countries in Africa without a standalone Ministry for gender.
- d) The commission through alliance with other African commissions on gender equality position favorably seek for recognition by the African Union.
- e) Continue to advocate for substantive financing of gender equality programs and interventions in Kenya and in the region
- f) Step up leadership role in African region through sitting in as many technical working groups as possible working on matters of gender equality. This will include championing establishment of predictable funding by states for women
- g) Position the commissions as the national and regional institutions promoting equality for women and other special interest groups suffering multiple discriminations including persons from indigenous and minority groups to preserve a position among organs advocating for equal rights for marginalized categories of the society

- h) Run monitoring interventions on mental health for women with disabilities and general category of women during pregnancy and 12 months post-partum to tap resources on psychosocial platforms.
- i) Take leadership in development of a strong results framework and measurable indicators for the sustainable development goals post 2015
- j) Take leadership in defining a plan of action and monitoring framework for the post 2015 conference on population and development.
- k) Work with KEWOPA to develop a participatory and engagement framework for all elected, nominated women including those holding key decision making positions in state and private sector agencies to annual conference or summit of women leaders. This forum will bring together women leaders and potential aspirants of elective and appointive positions to an experience sharing summit to identify obstacles to closing gender gaps and strategies for overcoming the same.
- l) Work with the national assembly and the senate to monitor the legislative gains the women leaders have made and document such for sharing and dissemination at international and regional meetings
- m) Work closely with all state and non-state actors to monitor the implementation of the constitutional and legislations aiming at reducing sexual gender based violence
- n) Work with the office of the controller of budgets to increase applications of gender responsive budgeting and programming at county and national levels to ensure optimal gender benefit analysis is attained. Further ensure implementation of affirmative laws and policies is allocated necessary budgets.
- o) Take leadership in development of a framework and mechanisms to inform the realization of the two-thirds gender principle at national levels by 2015. The framework should be delivered before End of 2014.

Next CSW

Also referred to as the CSW59/Beijing+20 (2015), the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, tentatively scheduled for 9-20 March 2015. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attend the session. The Commission will undertake a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The review (Beijing+20) will also include the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, the first five-year assessment conducted after the adoption of the Platform for Action, which highlighted further actions and initiatives. The session will also address current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action, as well as opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.