

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-sixth session
27 February-9 March 2012

Panel discussion
“Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”
Wednesday, 29 February 2012, 1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

ISSUES PAPER

I. Introduction

1. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the only global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It was established in 1946 as the Commission on the Position and Status of Women, and was renamed in 1978. The Commission is the principal global mechanism for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, and is the only global body that has a mandate to address violence against women and girls.

II. Background

2. The Commission has a long history of addressing violence against women and girls. In 1978, the Commission adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), which was the first international instrument to define violence against women and girls. The Commission has since held several sessions on violence against women and girls, and has adopted several resolutions and declarations on the issue.

3. The Commission has also been instrumental in the development of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include a goal on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Commission is currently working on a new declaration on violence against women and girls, which is expected to be adopted in 2013.

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III. Critical issues

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7
8
9
10
1
2
3
4

World Report on Violence and Health

Dissemination

1. **Introduction**
 2. **Background**
 3. **Methodology**
 4. **Results**
 5. **Discussion**
 6. **Conclusion**
 7. **References**
 8. **Appendix**
 9. **Tables**
 10. **Figures**
 11. **Abstract**
 12. **Keywords**
 13. **Summary**
 14. **Introduction**
 15. **Background**
 16. **Methodology**
 17. **Results**
 18. **Discussion**
 19. **Conclusion**
 20. **References**
 21. **Appendix**
 22. **Tables**
 23. **Figures**
 24. **Abstract**
 25. **Keywords**
 26. **Summary**
 27. **Introduction**
 28. **Background**
 29. **Methodology**
 30. **Results**
 31. **Discussion**
 32. **Conclusion**
 33. **References**
 34. **Appendix**
 35. **Tables**
 36. **Figures**
 37. **Abstract**
 38. **Keywords**
 39. **Summary**
 40. **Introduction**
 41. **Background**
 42. **Methodology**
 43. **Results**
 44. **Discussion**
 45. **Conclusion**
 46. **References**
 47. **Appendix**
 48. **Tables**
 49. **Figures**
 50. **Abstract**
 51. **Keywords**
 52. **Summary**
 53. **Introduction**
 54. **Background**
 55. **Methodology**
 56. **Results**
 57. **Discussion**
 58. **Conclusion**
 59. **References**
 60. **Appendix**
 61. **Tables**
 62. **Figures**
 63. **Abstract**
 64. **Keywords**
 65. **Summary**
 66. **Introduction**
 67. **Background**
 68. **Methodology**
 69. **Results**
 70. **Discussion**
 71. **Conclusion**
 72. **References**
 73. **Appendix**
 74. **Tables**
 75. **Figures**
 76. **Abstract**
 77. **Keywords**
 78. **Summary**
 79. **Introduction**
 80. **Background**
 81. **Methodology**
 82. **Results**
 83. **Discussion**
 84. **Conclusion**
 85. **References**
 86. **Appendix**
 87. **Tables**
 88. **Figures**
 89. **Abstract**
 90. **Keywords**
 91. **Summary**
 92. **Introduction**
 93. **Background**
 94. **Methodology**
 95. **Results**
 96. **Discussion**
 97. **Conclusion**
 98. **References**
 99. **Appendix**
 100. **Tables**
 101. **Figures**
 102. **Abstract**
 103. **Keywords**
 104. **Summary**
 105. **Introduction**
 106. **Background**
 107. **Methodology**
 108. **Results**
 109. **Discussion**
 110. **Conclusion**
 111. **References**
 112. **Appendix**
 113. **Tables**
 114. **Figures**
 115. **Abstract**
 116. **Keywords**
 117. **Summary**
 118. **Introduction**
 119. **Background**
 120. **Methodology**
 121. **Results**
 122. **Discussion**
 123. **Conclusion**
 124. **References**
 125. **Appendix**
 126. **Tables**
 127. **Figures**
 128. **Abstract**
 129. **Keywords**
 130. **Summary**
 131. **Introduction**
 132. **Background**
 133. **Methodology**
 134. **Results**
 135. **Discussion**
 136. **Conclusion**
 137. **References**
 138. **Appendix**
 139. **Tables**
 140. **Figures**
 141. **Abstract**
 142. **Keywords**
 143. **Summary**
 144. **Introduction**
 145. **Background**
 146. **Methodology**
 147. **Results**
 148. **Discussion**
 149. **Conclusion**
 150. **References**
 151. **Appendix**
 152. **Tables**
 153. **Figures**
 154. **Abstract**
 155. **Keywords**
 156. **Summary**
 157. **Introduction**
 158. **Background**
 159. **Methodology**
 160. **Results**
 161. **Discussion**
 162. **Conclusion**
 163. **References**
 164. **Appendix**
 165. **Tables**
 166. **Figures**
 167. **Abstract**
 168. **Keywords**
 169. **Summary**
 170. **Introduction**
 171. **Background**
 172. **Methodology**
 173. **Results**
 174. **Discussion**
 175. **Conclusion**
 176. **References**
 177. **Appendix**
 178. **Tables**
 179. **Figures**
 180. **Abstract**
 181. **Keywords**
 182. **Summary**
 183. **Introduction**
 184. **Background**
 185. **Methodology**
 186. **Results**
 187. **Discussion**
 188. **Conclusion**
 189. **References**
 190. **Appendix**
 191. **Tables**
 192. **Figures**
 193. **Abstract**
 194. **Keywords**
 195. **Summary**
 196. **Introduction**
 197. **Background**
 198. **Methodology**
 199. **Results**
 200. **Discussion**
 201. **Conclusion**
 202. **References**
 203. **Appendix**
 204. **Tables**
 205. **Figures**
 206. **Abstract**
 207. **Keywords**
 208. **Summary**
 209. **Introduction**
 210. **Background**
 211. **Methodology**
 212. **Results**
 213. **Discussion**
 214. **Conclusion**
 215. **References**
 216. **Appendix**
 217. **Tables**
 218. **Figures**
 219. **Abstract**
 220. **Keywords**
 221. **Summary**
 222. **Introduction**
 223. **Background**
 224. **Methodology**
 225. **Results**
 226. **Discussion**
 227. **Conclusion**
 228. **References**
 229. **Appendix**
 230. **Tables**
 231. **Figures**
 232. **Abstract**
 233. **Keywords**
 234. **Summary**
 235. **Introduction**
 236. **Background**
 237. **Methodology**
 238. **Results**
 239. **Discussion**
 240. **Conclusion**
 241. **References**
 242. **Appendix**
 243. **Tables**
 244. **Figures**
 245. **Abstract**
 246. **Keywords**
 247. **Summary**
 248. **Introduction**
 249. **Background**
 250. **Methodology**
 251. **Results**
 252. **Discussion**
 253. **Conclusion**
 254. **References**
 255. **Appendix**
 256. **Tables**
 257. **Figures**
 258. **Abstract**
 259. **Keywords**
 260. **Summary**
 261. **Introduction**
 262. **Background**
 263. **Methodology**
 264. **Results**
 265. **Discussion**
 266. **Conclusion**
 267. **References**
 268. **Appendix**
 269. **Tables**
 270. **Figures**
 271. **Abstract**
 272. **Keywords**
 273. **Summary**
 274. **Introduction**
 275. **Background**
 276. **Methodology**
 277. **Results**
 278. **Discussion**
 279. **Conclusion**
 280. **References**
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 282. **Tables**
 283. **Figures**
 284. **Abstract**
 285. **Keywords**
 286. **Summary**
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 288. **Background**
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 293. **References**
 294. **Appendix**
 295. **Tables**
 296. **Figures**
 297. **Abstract**
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 299. **Summary**
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 306. **References**
 307. **Appendix**
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 310. **Abstract**
 311. **Keywords**
 312. **Summary**
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 319. **References**
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 321. **Tables**
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 323. **Abstract**
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 334. **Tables**
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 336. **Abstract**
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 344. **Conclusion**
 345. **References**
 346. **Appendix**
 347. **Tables**
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 358. **References**
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 362. **Abstract**
 363. **Keywords**
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 368. **Results**
 369. **Discussion**
 370. **Conclusion**
 371. **References**
 372. **Appendix**
 373. **Tables**
 374. **Figures**
 375. **Abstract**
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 384. **References**
 385. **Appendix**
 386. **Tables**
 387. **Figures**
 388. **Abstract**
 389. **Keywords**
 390. **Summary**
 391. **Introduction**
 392. **Background**
 393. **Methodology**
 394. **Results**
 395. **Discussion**
 396. **Conclusion**
 397. **References**
 398. **Appendix**
 399. **Tables**
 400. **Figures**
 401. **Abstract**
 402. **Keywords**
 403. **Summary**
 404. **Introduction**
 405. **Background**
 406. **Methodology**
 407. **Results**
 408. **Discussion**
 409. **Conclusion**
 410. **References**
 411. **Appendix**
 412. **Tables**
 413. **Figures**
 414. **Abstract**
 415. **Keywords**
 416. **Summary**
 417. **Introduction**
 418. **Background**
 419. **Methodology**
 420. **Results**
 421. **Discussion**
 422. **Conclusion**
 423. **References**
 424. **Appendix**
 425. **Tables**
 426. **Figures**
 427. **Abstract**
 428. **Keywords**
 429. **Summary**
 430. **Introduction**
 431. **Background**
 432. **Methodology**
 433. **Results**
 434. **Discussion**
 435. **Conclusion**
 436. **References**
 437. **Appendix**
 438. **Tables**
 439. **Figures**
 440. **Abstract**
 441. **Keywords**
 442. **Summary**
 443. **Introduction**
 444. **Background**
 445. **Methodology**
 446. **Results**
 447. **Discussion**
 448. **Conclusion**
 449. **References**
 450. **Appendix**
 451. **Tables**
 452. **Figures**
 453. **Abstract**
 454. **Keywords**
 455. **Summary**
 456. **Introduction**
 457. **Background**
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 459. **Results**
 460. **Discussion**
 461. **Conclusion**
 462. **References**
 463. **Appendix**
 464. **Tables**
 465. **Figures**
 466. **Abstract**
 467. **Keywords**
 468. **Summary**
 469. **Introduction**
 470. **Background**
 471. **Methodology**
 472. **Results**
 473. **Discussion**
 474. **Conclusion**
 475. **References**
 476. **Appendix**
 477. **Tables**
 478. **Figures**
 479. **Abstract**
 480. **Keywords**
 481. **Summary**
 482. **Introduction**
 483. **Background**
 484. **Methodology**
 485. **Results**
 486. **Discussion**
 487. **Conclusion**
 488. **References**
 489. **Appendix**
 490. **Tables**
 491. **Figures**
 492. **Abstract**
 493. **Keywords**
 494. **Summary**
 495. **Introduction**
 496. **Background**
 497. **Methodology**
 498. **Results**
 499. **Discussion**
 500. **Conclusion**
 501. **References**
 502. **Appendix**
 503. **Tables**
 504. **Figures**
 505. **Abstract**
 506. **Keywords**
 507. **Summary**
 508. **Introduction**
 509. **Background**
 510. **Methodology**
 511. **Results**
 512. **Discussion**
 513. **Conclusion**
 514. **References**
 515. **Appendix**
 516. **Tables**
 517. **Figures**
 518. **Abstract**
 519. **Keywords**
 520. **Summary**
 521. **Introduction**
 522. **Background**
 523. **Methodology**
 524. **Results**
 525. **Discussion**
 526. **Conclusion**
 527. **References**
 528. **Appendix**
 529. **Tables**
 530. **Figures**
 531. **Abstract**
 532. **Keywords**
 533. **Summary**
 534. **Introduction**
 535. **Background**
 536. **Methodology**
 537. **Results**
 538. **Discussion**
 539. **Conclusion**
 540. **References**
 541. **Appendix**
 542. **Tables**
 543. **Figures**
 544. **Abstract**
 545. **Keywords**
 546. **Summary**
 547. **Introduction**
 548. **Background**
 549. **Methodology**
 550. **Results**
 551. **Discussion**
 552. **Conclusion**
 553. **References**
 554. **Appendix**
 555. **Tables**
 556. **Figures**
 557. **Abstract**
 558. **Keywords**
 559. **Summary**
 560. **Introduction**
 561. **Background**
 562. **Methodology**
 563. **Results**
 564. **Discussion**
 565. **Conclusion**
 566. **References**
 567. **Appendix**
 568. **Tables**
 569. **Figures**
 570. **Abstract**
 571. **Keywords**
 572. **Summary**
 573. **Introduction**
 574. **Background**
 575. **Methodology**
 576. **Results**
 577. **Discussion**
 578. **Conclusion**
 579. **References**
 580. **Appendix**
 581. **Tables**
 582. **Figures**
 583. **Abstract**
 584. **Keywords**
 585. **Summary**
 586. **Introduction**
 587. **Background**
 588. **Methodology**
 589. **Results**
 590. **Discussion**
 591. **Conclusion**
 592. **References**
 593. **Appendix**
 594. **Tables**
 595. **Figures**
 596. **Abstract**
 597. **Keywords**
 598. **Summary**
 599. **Introduction**
 600. **Background**
 601. **Methodology**
 602. **Results**
 603. **Discussion**
 604. **Conclusion**
 605. **References**
 606. **Appendix**
 607. **Tables**
 608. **Figures**
 609. **Abstract**
 610. **Keywords**
 611. **Summary**
 612. **Introduction**
 613. **Background**
 614. **Methodology**
 615. **Results**
 616. **Discussion**
 617. **Conclusion**
 618. **References**
 619. **Appendix**
 620. **Tables**
 621. **Figures**
 622. **Abstract**
 623. **Keywords**
 624. **Summary**
 625. **Introduction**
 626. **Background**
 627. **Methodology**
 628. **Results**
 629. **Discussion**
 630. **Conclusion**
 631. **References**
 632. **Appendix**
 633. **Tables**
 634. **Figures**
 635. **Abstract**
 636. **Keywords**
 637. **Summary**
 638. **Introduction**
 639. **Background**
 640. **Methodology**
 641. **Results**
 642. **Discussion**
 643. **Conclusion**
 644. **References**
 645. **Appendix**
 646. **Tables**
 647. **Figures**
 648. **Abstract**
 649. **Keywords**
 650. **Summary**
 651. **Introduction**
 652. **Background**
 653. **Methodology**
 654. **Results**
 655. **Discussion**
 656. **Conclusion**
 657. **References**
 658. **Appendix**
 659. **Tables**
 660. **Figures**
 661. **Abstract**
 662. **Keywords**
 663. **Summary**
 664. **Introduction**
 665. **Background**
 666. **Methodology**
 667. **Results**
 668. **Discussion**
 669. **Conclusion**
 670. **References**
 671. **Appendix**
 672. **Tables**
 673. **Figures**
 674. **Abstract**
 675. **Keywords**
 676. **Summary**
 677. **Introduction**
 678. **Background**
 679. **Methodology**
 680. **Results**
 681. **Discussion**
 682. **Conclusion**
 683. **References**
 684. **Appendix**
 685. **Tables**
 686. **Figures**
 687. **Abstract**
 688. **Keywords**
 689. **Summary**
 690. **Introduction**
 691. **Background**
 692. **Methodology**
 693. **Results**
 694. **Discussion**
 695. **Conclusion**
 696. **References**
 697. **Appendix**
 698. **Tables**
 699. **Figures**
 700. **Abstract**
 701. **Keywords**
 702. **Summary**
 703. **Introduction**
 704. **Background**
 705. **Methodology**
 706. **Results**
 707. **Discussion**
 708. **Conclusion**
 709. **References**
 710. **Appendix**
 711. **Tables**
 712. **Figures**
 713. **Abstract**
 714. **Keywords**
 715. **Summary**
 716. **Introduction**
 717. **Background**
 718. **Methodology**
 719. **Results**
 720. **Discussion**
 721. **Conclusion**
 722. **References**
 723. **Appendix**
 724. **Tables**
 725. **Figures**
 726. **Abstract**
 727. **Keywords**
 728. **Summary**
 729. **Introduction**
 730. **Background**
 731. **Methodology**
 732. **Results**
 733. **Discussion**
 734. **Conclusion**
 735. **References**
 736. **Appendix**
 737. **Tables**
 738. **Figures**
 739. **Abstract**
 740. **Keywords**
 741. **Summary**
 742. **Introduction**
 743. **Background**
 744. **Methodology**
 745. **Results**
 746. **Discussion**
 747. **Conclusion**
 748. **References**
 749. **Appendix**
 750. **Tables**
 751. **Figures**
 752. **Abstract**
 753. **Keywords**
 754. **Summary**
 755. **Introduction**
 756. **Background**
 757. **Methodology**
 758. **Results**
 759. **Discussion**
 760. **Conclusion**
 761. **References**
 762. **Appendix**
 763. **Tables**
 764. **Figures**
 765. **Abstract**